



Inside



**FIVE REASONS WHY WOMAN  
IS POISON FOR  
THE FOUR HORSEMEN**

May 1990  
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# Wrestling

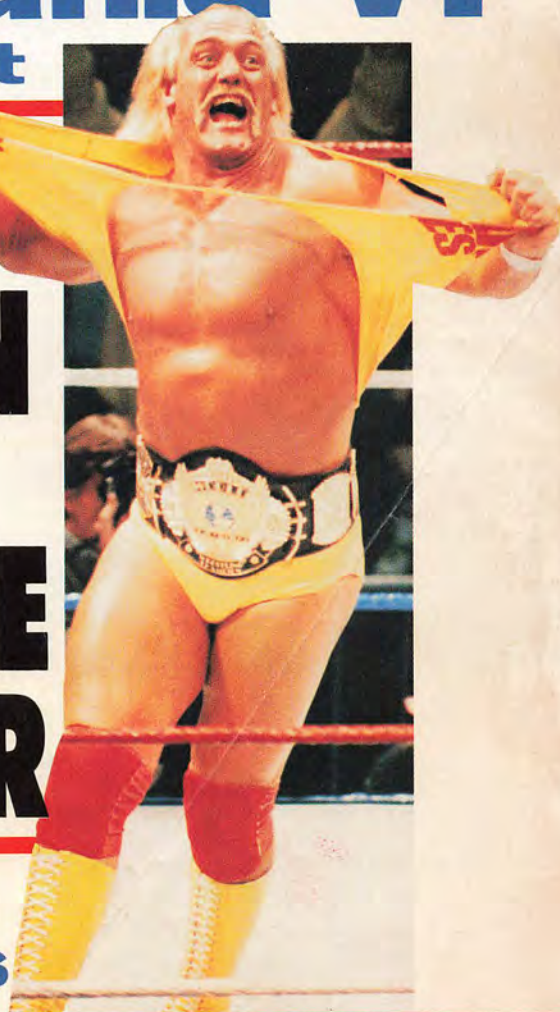
FROM THE PUBLISHERS OF PRO WRESTLING ILLUSTRATED

## WrestleMania VI

Main Event

**HULK  
HOGAN  
VS.  
ULTIMATE  
WARRIOR**

**Exclusive  
Preview & Analysis**



**IS THERE AN NWA CONSPIRACY AGAINST LEX LUGER?**

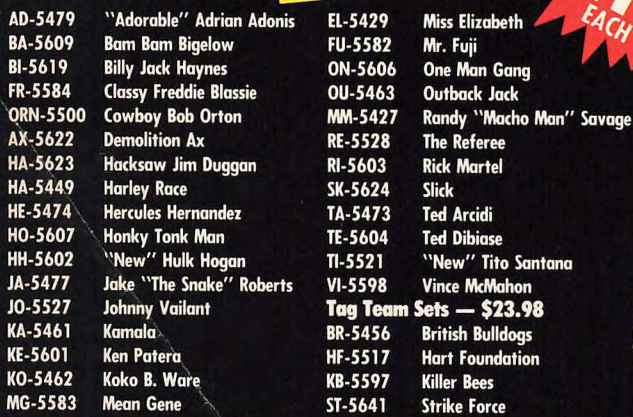
**The Painful Lesson Al Perez Must Learn:  
THE FIRST MONTHS IN THE WWF ARE THE HARDEST**

**HAS JERRY LAWLER DESTROYED MEMPHIS' LAST HOPE?**





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# Wrestling

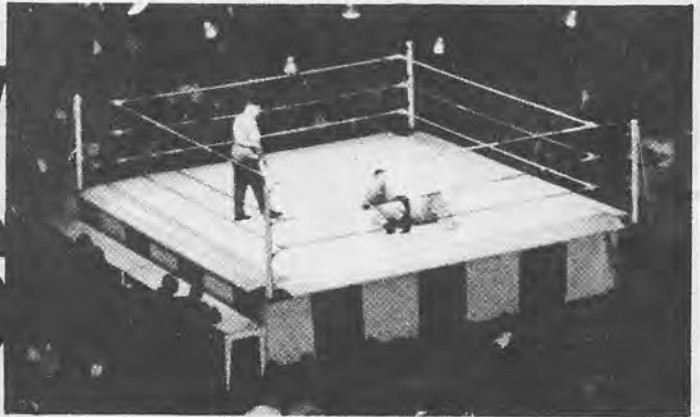
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**Next issue on sale April 17**

SEND LETTERS TO:

# SINCERELY YOURS

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## THE EXCITING '80s

Your special section "The '80s—A Rousing Review Of A Dynamic Decade" (March 1990) was dynamite. The photos really told the story of where wrestling's been over the past 10 years. That timeline was very interesting. I like the way you compared events in wrestling to what was happening in the world at the time. It was a totally new perspective.



In 1980, Mr. Wrestling II visited President Jimmy Carter at the White House.

I only became a wrestling fan in 1984, so the information about the first half of the decade was extremely helpful. That shot of Mr. Wrestling II with Jimmy Carter was especially amusing. It's little tidbits like those that keep me coming back to your magazine.

LINDA SIKOWSKI  
New Bern, NC

## STEAMING MAD

Matt Brock really got me angry with something he wrote in "Plain Speaking" (March 1990). He called Troy, New York, "the ugliest city I've seen." Well, I live in Troy, and what Brock has done is nothing less than character assassination of a city. Me and my friends are up in arms about his stupid comments.

Troy is a very nice city, probably 10 times better than some of the places Brock has lived. Brock should also know that many of his readers live in towns he would call dumps, but I guess that doesn't mean anything to a high-and-mighty, big-shot reporter like Brock.

So listen up, Mr. Health Kick. I hope you drown in a vat of yogurt! Learn to have some respect for the cities and towns of America.

ROBERTA LINDENAUER  
Troy, NY

## A PAIR OF WIMPS

I think that Ron Garvin is a real wimp. He wears a shinguard to protect himself against Greg Valentine's figure-four leglock. Valentine is a great athlete, and Garvin can't take that away from him.

While I'm on the topic, I also think Roddy Piper is a wimp for absolutely humiliating Brother Love in front of millions of fans.

Garvin and Piper have both been shown to be real cowards!

STUART EISENSTEIN  
Thornhill, Ontario



Ric Flair locks up with Lex Luger. Reader David Wideman wants Flair to be a fan favorite who wrestles like a rulebreaker.

## FLAIR'S CHANGE

Ric Flair's change to being a fan favorite is good and bad. He's now using headlocks and armbars when he can be punishing his opponents with piledrivers, bodyslams, and suplexes. However, the fan support has improved him. I say drop the headlocks and armbars, but keep the fans.

DAVID WIDEMAN  
Wilkes-Barre, PA

## POWER OF ATTORNEY

I just finished watching an AWA World tag team title bout between The Destruction Crew and Paul Diamond and The Trooper. When Diamond pinned Mike Enos, referee Gary DeRusha gave the belts to Diamond and Trooper. All of a sudden, the Crew brought out an AWA attorney, who said *Bloom* was the legal man in the ring. DeRusha then reversed the decision and gave the belts back to the Crew.





Matches involving AWA tag champs Mike Enos and Wayne Bloom shouldn't be decided by an attorney, writes Daniel Helms.

I have two questions:

● Since when do attorneys make decisions in big matches? When Bobby Heenan's Brain Busters lost the WWF tag team title to Demolition, Heenan claimed that Tully Blanchard, who had been pinned, was not the legal man in the ring. Where was the WWF attorney? DeRusha should have remem-

bered who was legal. If he had, we wouldn't have had this controversy.

● Why wasn't the match restarted? Diamond and Trooper never did anything to cause the match *not* to be restarted. There were at least five minutes between the time the reversed decision was made and the end of the program.

Somebody in the AWA better get something straight or they'll lose die-hard fans.

DANIEL HELMS  
Magnolia, AR

### THE NEW SNUKA

Since Jimmy Snuka returned to the WWF, his wrestling skills have diminished greatly. The fans do not respond to him like they did when he feuded with Roddy Piper and Don Muraco.

Snuka's wrestling skills and speed are not as potent as they were five years ago. The only thing that psychs up the fans is when he hoots in the ring like Rick Steiner.

I think Snuka should become a rulebreaker again. He has lost many matches since his return to the WWF. He has been pinned cleanly by Curt Hennig and Barry Windham on several

occasions, and even has trouble getting by The Honky Tonk Man. If he turned back to being the vile and devastating wrestler he was when Capt. Lou Albano managed him, he might have an easier shot at a singles title.

I just hope Snuka does the right thing. Look how well Hennig, Windham, Dino Bravo, and Lanny Poffo have succeeded since they became rulebreakers.

PETE SWIFF<sup>TM</sup> AMORUSO  
Garfield, NJ

### IN BAD TASTE

Recently, I was disgusted by something Jim Ross said on *World Championship Wrestling*. All through the show, Ross kept on talking about how it was the holiday season and how there should be peace and happiness for everyone this Christmas. Then came the final match.

It was a bounty match pitting The Cuban Assassin, under the tutelage of Teddy Long, against Norman the Lunatic. Long had put a \$350 bounty on Norman. Granted, there have been larger bounties in wrestling before, but that's not the point. Ross said things like "Only \$350? Big deal! That's nothing! Let's see some *real* money on the line."

Mr. Ross, let me remind you that there are thousands of people in the United States who would gladly accept even *half* of \$350 during the holiday season. Let's try to remember those less fortunate before we say or do something we might regret.

GARY STENNES  
Rushford, MN



If Jimmy Snuka became a rulebreaker again, he'd get more title shots, writes Pete Amoruso. He thinks turning bad has done wonders for Snuka's opponent here, former AWA World champion Curt Hennig.

### HARDLY BAD NEWS

When Bad News Brown announced that he would challenge Hulk Hogan, I got sick. What a loser Bad News is! He can brawl, but he definitely can't wrestle. Is he a top contender to Hogan's World title, or even to The Ultimate Warrior's Intercontinental belt? I don't think so. Look who he's beaten recently: Hercules Hernandez, Mark Young, and Paul Roma. Brilliant? Of course not!

(Continued on page 46)



# EDITOR'S NOTEBOOK

Stu  
Saks

Editor-in-Chief

I'm having a little trouble coming to terms with the thought of Big Bossman as a fan favorite. This guy didn't suddenly see the light. The only thing in this man's eyes are dollar signs.

He didn't turn good because he had finally come to the realization that winning matches through cheating is meaningless and unfulfilling. This is a man who was willing to carry out an assault for pay and got angry when he wasn't paid. That's it.

The fact that he's now going to team with Jake Roberts, the victim of the unpaid-for attack, is not an indication that he has changed his evil ways. Of all people, Bossman should know how rare it is that a criminal is rehabilitated. His teaming with Roberts is like when a guy is dumped by his girlfriend and starts to go out with her best friend. Bossman is trying to show up his former manager. By teaming with Roberts, he is sending out the message—loud and clear.

I'm not worried about Jake. He has been on both sides of the fence, and he is not about to be duped by someone whose IQ is lower than his belt size. What concerns me—and I've made this point before—is the fans. They don't seem to have any sense of fair play anymore. They'll boo a wholesome all-American team like The Dynamic Dudes for no apparent reason. Yet they'll cheer Big Bossman because he shoved Slick and freed the handcuffed Roberts from the ropes. Hell, it was Bossman who locked him up to begin with!

Don't think for a minute that Bossman is deep enough to have analyzed the situation and learned, through the actions of his manager, the true meaning of evil. He got screwed by Slick and he jumped ship to teach him a lesson. When Slick apologizes and comes up with the cash, Bossman will be back. That's the kind of guy he is.

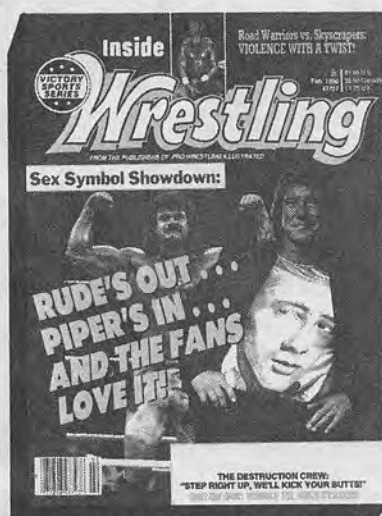


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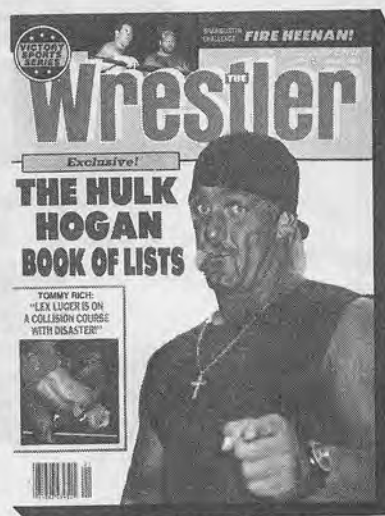
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# TOP SECRET

## Behind the Dressing Room Door

by **David Rosenbaum**

**E**VERY YEAR, THERE'S one man in the WWF's Royal Rumble who distinguishes himself with a spectacular performance but doesn't win because he was unfortunate to draw an early number. Bret Hart was the man in 1988. Curt Hennig was the man in 1989.

This year, the man was Ted DiBiase, only I'm not so sure he's worthy of praise.

Last year, with a little help from Virgil and an alleged cash payment, DiBiase drew the final number (that's 30) for the Rumble. He didn't win. This year, with increased security at the drawing, DiBiase drew number one.

To win, he would have had to last nearly a solid hour against 29 other wrestlers in the federation. It was an impossible task, and DiBiase's fate was decided before the bell rang.

Forty-four minutes after the opening bell did ring, the "Million-Dollar Man" was still standing. Finally, at the 44:52 mark he was eliminated by The Ultimate Warrior. Between the time DiBiase entered and finally was deposited from the ring, 20 other men had entered. That's really something.

But DiBiase didn't exactly perform admirably. For a good part of his time in the ring, he avoided the heat of the action. In many cases, Virgil got involved and saved DiBiase from getting eliminated.

In contrast, Hart and Hennig's efforts in the previous two Rumbles were positively startling. They used their tremendous stamina and ability to make the most out of no-win situations. Hart and Hennig knew they couldn't win, so they set out to distinguish themselves.

*(Continued on page 50)*



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So big it had to be held in two locations—The Omni in Atlanta and the Greensboro Coliseum in North Carolina. Highlights include: NWA champ Ric Flair vs. Nikita Koloff; Road Warriors vs. Midnight on a scaffold; "First Blood" match—Rhodes vs. Blanchard; Ron Garvin vs. Big (Bossman) Bubba; Rock 'n' Rolls vs. Andersons in cage; Jones vs. Valiant—hair vs. hair.

The sixth annual Starrcade event, the first under the Ted Turner banner, thrilled a sellout crowd at The Scope in Virginia. Featured: Lex Luger's challenge of Ric Flair; Road Warriors vs. Sting & Rhodes; Windham vs. Bigelow; Rotundo vs. Rick Steiner; Midnights vs. Midnights; and more. **\$39.95/125 Min./Turner Home Entertainment**

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I'VE HAD A lot of fun in recent weeks with a couple of books my brother left under my Christmas tree. One is titled *Imponderables: The Solution To The Mysteries Of Everyday Life* and the other is *Why Do Clocks Run Clockwise? And Other Imponderables*. Both are by a guy named David Feldman, and before you get the impression that they deal with heavy philosophical issues, some of the hundreds of questions they answer include: Why do we itch? Why are there no seams on M&Ms? What causes the holes in Swiss cheese? and, If nothing sticks to Teflon, how do they get Teflon to stick to the pan? (No, I don't have the space to get into the answers here; check out the books, you won't be disappointed.)

Anyway, I'd like to tell you why White Castle hamburgers are square and have five holes in them (the reasons for all this are in there, too!), or why professional wine tasters don't get drunk on the job, but I have to bring this discussion back to wrestling.

Don't I?

Sure I do. And the reason I bring all these questions up is because these books caused me to go out and discover the answers to some unusual questions about professional wrestling that have bugged me for a long time. To wit:

*When a wrestler throws a dropkick and misses, why does it hurt him, but when he throws a dropkick and connects, it doesn't?*

This one's bothered me for a long time, but the answer (like the answers to most apparently complex questions) is remarkably simple: physics. Brian Pillman, practitioner of perhaps the best dropkick in the sport today, explains:

"When you go up for a dropkick, you're making an offensive play in a match. That means delivering the kick with the idea that you're going to connect; hedge your bets, make the move with any thought you might miss, and you're not giving it 100 percent.

"Anyway, remember Newton's third law: For every action, there is an equal and opposite reaction," Pillman continued. "When you dropkick someone, the force that sends the opponent down also affects the dropkicker. It's that force that the dropkicker is prepared to deal with defensively. When the move connects, the force is there, you know it, and you're able to recover quickly. When the dropkick misses, the force *isn't* there, as expected, and you hit the mat in a way you're not prepared to deal with. Sometimes it doesn't mean much if you're fresh, but sometimes it can stun you . . . and cause you to lose the advantage in a closely fought battle."

*Why does a sleeperhold cause a wrestler to lose consciousness?*

According to *Gray's Anatomy*, the artery which sup-

## ON THE ROAD

with  
CRAIG PETERS

plies blood to the head and neck is called the "common carotid." Midway up the neck, it splits into two branches: the "external carotid," which supplies blood to the neck, face, and superficial parts of the head, and the "internal carotid," which supplies blood to the greater portion of the cranial cavity.

A properly applied sleeperhold places pressure on the common carotid, below the branching, diminishing the blood supply to the *entire* head and causing a light-headed feeling.

It also places pressure on the nerve system in the neck, mainly the "neumogastric nerve," which passes through the neck and thorax into the upper part of the abdomen. Pressure on this nerve can affect one's ability to intake air, thus amplifying the light-headedness to a state of



Brutus Beefcake puts the sleeper on Rick Martel

near-unconsciousness. That the nerve extends into the abdomen also accounts for the common phenomenon of a sleeperhold victim coughing upon being released from the hold and revived.

In reality, the sleeperhold is a very dangerous hold; it is remarkable that it has not resulted in more permanent injuries, or at least in a greater number of cases similar to boxing's "punch-drunk syndrome." Perhaps the low injury rate can be attributed to most referees' timely enforcement of causing the practitioner of the move to release the hold and quickly revive the victim.

Is there something you've always wondered about wrestling but just never got a satisfactory answer to? I'll try and find the answers; if I can, I'll print them in a future installment of this column. Send them to: "On The Road" c/o *Inside Wrestling*, Box 48, Rockville Centre, NY 11571.

And why is Peters' column called "On The Road" anyway when he hardly ever writes of his experiences on the road? □



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# NAMES MAKING

**W**WF WORLD CHAMPION **Hulk Hogan** scored one of the biggest victories of his career when he eliminated **Curt Hennig** to win the third annual Royal Rumble on January 21 in Orlando, Florida. What had to be the most memorable part of the event, however, was Hogan's brief but explosive confrontation with **The Ultimate Warrior**.



## THE ULTIMATE WARRIOR

Hogan and the Warrior had eliminated all other competitors when they squared off in a short battle that turned out to be a deadlock. Both men shoved each other several times, then criss-crossed off the ropes until they double-clotheslined each other. Later, the Warrior came to Hogan's rescue when **Rick Rude** and **The Barbarian** tried to dump the champion over the ropes. But moments after that, Hogan knocked the Warrior out of the ring as Rude and Barbarian held Warrior over the ropes. Was the Warrior's ouster an accident, or did Hogan intentionally dump him out?

That's the biggest question on everybody's minds. Hogan realizes that the Warrior is the biggest threat he's ever had to his championship, and he may have wanted to prove he's the better man. On the other hand, those close to Hogan insist that when he knocked Warrior out, he was only trying to eliminate Barbarian and Rude. It might only be a misunderstanding, but it's the kind that could build into a full-scale war.

The NWA is reinstating the United States tag team title, which has been dormant since last April. At that point, **Eddie Gilbert** and **Rick Steiner** abandoned the title because of injuries and other commitments. The belts are now being contested in a tournament being held at arenas all over the country. Most of the NWA's teams have entered, but the early favorite is turning out to be the young duo of **Tom Zenk** and **Brian Pillman**.

"It's high time I won a title," said



**BRIAN PILLMAN**

"Flyin' " Brian. "We may be a new tag team, but with me and Tommy merging our talents, we'll give a good showing of ourselves. We'll take anybody on—and that includes **The Road Warriors**—until we establish ourselves as one of the NWA's greatest teams ever."



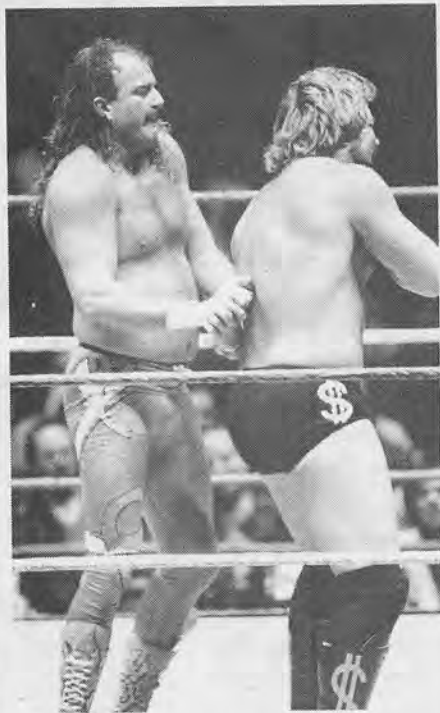
## LAWLER VS. JUNKYARD DOG

Stampede Wrestling, the longtime Calgary promotion, ceased operations in early January. It was hoped that the federation would be back in business by the time this magazine hit the newsstands ... A new federation called the North American Wrestling Association has started promoting cards in the Carolinas. Co-promoters John Ringley and George Scott announced that former NWA World champion **Rick Steamboat** would be making several appearances.

**Junkyard Dog** has entered the USWA and CWA areas, and he's turned out to be a surprisingly persistent threat to **Jerry Lawler's** USWA title. Lawler has gotten himself disqualified several times in order to get away from the Dog's clutches, but JYD refuses to get frustrated over the situation.

"Lawler's just a coward, that's all," growled the Dog. "It's been a long time since he faced a man as determined as I am. As everybody knows, I've had a close relationship with the people of Memphis for a long time, so I wanna win the belt for *them*. Heaven knows that Lawler has abandoned them, but I'm back to provide a *real* hero for the folks 'round here."

Amazingly, it appears that **Big Bossman**, one of the most brutal men in the WWF, has turned good! It all started after a January 2 card in Birmingham, Alabama, where Bossman argued with his former manager, **Slick**, over a payoff for helping **Ted DiBiase** attack **Jake Roberts**.

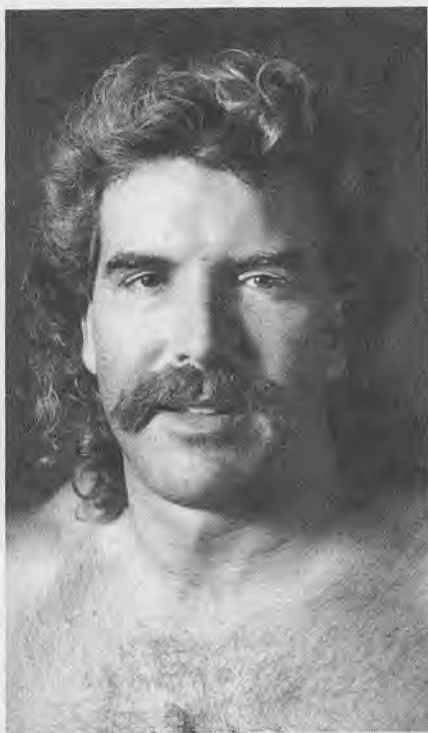


ROBERTS VS. DIBIASE

Bossman left the arena without Slick that night and, on January 22 in Miami, Bossman announced that he was now joining forces with "The Snake." By way of response, DiBiase has offered a large payoff to **Akeem**,

Bossman's former partner, to end the Georgia native's career.

Former World Class champion **Black Bart** and former AWA World tag team champion **Scott Hall** are now competing in the WWF... Trainer and former wrestler **Larry Sharpe**, who brought **Bam Bam Bigelow** and **The Soultaker** into the wrestling world, has unleashed a new tag team,



SCOTT HALL

**The Pit Bull Express**. The rulebreaking duo is slated to embark on a tour of New Zealand soon.

January was an awful month for **The Destruction Crew**, the AWA World tag team champions. First, AWA President **Joe Blanchard** banned all maneuvers from the top rope, which prohibits the Crew from using their favorite finishing maneuver, the flying clothesline. Later in the month, **Wayne Bloom** was forced out of action after undergoing surgery on his right knee. Despite these setbacks manager **John-**



THE DESTRUCTION CREW

**ny Valiant**, who will be allowed to find a sub to team with **Mike Enos** in title defenses, is not worried.

"Seems like everybody's out to get us around here," said Valiant, matter-of-factly. "Everybody says there's no way we can keep the belts now. For us, that's a challenge, and we thrive on challenges. This is a time when a team needs a great manager, and The Destruction Crew has the best manager in the business."

**Derrick Dukes** has returned to the AWA... **Manny Fernandez** won the WWC Puerto Rican title from **Invader I** on January 13 in Bayamon, Puerto Rico... Former CWF champion **Tom Prichard** is now in the ICW.

**Chris Dundee**, 82, a former promoter in the Florida area, suffered a massive stroke in Miami in late January and was paralyzed on the right side of his body. Dundee, the older brother of boxing trainer **Angelo Dundee**, promoted the **Sonny Liston-Cassius Clay** heavyweight championship bout in Miami in 1964. He also has promoted wrestling cards throughout the Sunshine State.

That's all for now, fans. See you at the matches! □



# THE INSIDER

By Eddie Ellner

*[The opinions expressed in "The Insider" are those of Eddie Ellner alone, and do not necessarily represent the opinions of anyone else on the staff of this magazine.]*

**M**CDUGAL STREET IN the gall bladder of SoHo, downtown Manhattan. Matt Brock and I are sidling up to the Scrap Bar for a few hours of refreshment and wrestling. I've forced the old codger out of his element to settle a debt (he gave me Notre Dame and five points in the Orange Bowl) and, with a reporter's quick eye, Brock knows from one look around this place he is in for trouble.

The Scrap Bar is home to decadent rock 'n' roll junkies who'd otherwise be homeless. Thundering heavy metal and new wave music booms from walls littered, speckled, and decorated with this generation's unusual concept of art. Spandex and leather are the rule. Matt orders a beer (in light of Matt's recent health problems, I stuffed him full of tofu burgers and rice cakes at the Quantum Leap, a health joint down the block; he appreciated neither the food nor the gesture) and stares blankly at the screens.

Running simultaneously on the bar's four TV sets are the following programs: Bugs Bunny, Road Runner and Pink Panther cartoons; MTV—featuring a soundless tribute to Motley Crue; *The*



Steve Williams battles Salman Hashimikov in Japan. Williams is feared and respected in Japan, but in the U.S. he's often overlooked in favor of more attractive athletes.

*Texas Chainsaw Massacre Part II*; and, the reason we are here, NWA wrestling. There is no sound, save for the appropriately violent music blasting from a separate stereo system.

Steve Williams makes short work of an unidentified prelim bum. "Williams doesn't have the look of a champion," Matt says, noting his stumpy body and scar-riddled face. I agree with him, but note how much they worship "Dr. Death" in Japan.

"Japan didn't gain control of the world's economy by worshipping cheekbones," Matt sermonizes. I order him another beer as the sinister image of Williams is replaced by Sting's sweet counte-

nance. We are both struck by his matinee-idol good looks, his all-American smile. "There's the look of a champion," Matt says. "And he has the firepower to match his face."

I disagree, cautioning: "A sweet smile hasn't won him the belt yet, though Lord knows he's had enough opportunities." Matt grunts.

**WE INTERRUPT THIS COLUMN FOR THIS SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT!**

Regarding the ascension of Andre the Giant Idiot and Haku to the station of WWF tag team champions, Associate Editor Andy Rodriguez writes in a recent issue of *PWI Weekly*:

*(Continued on page 52)*



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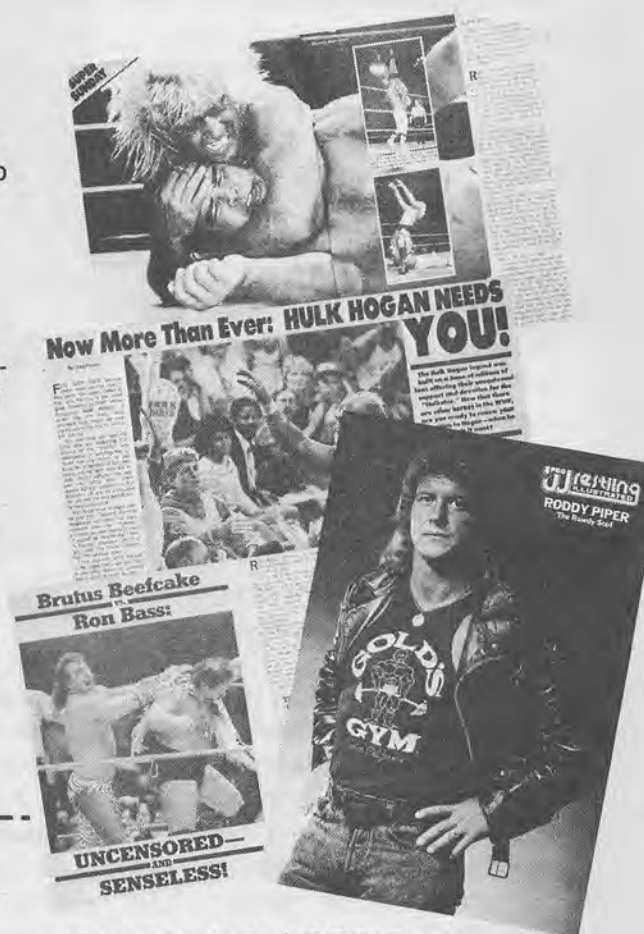
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# A—ON— ASSIGNMENT

BY LIZ HUNTER

**A**CCORDING TO AN informal exit poll I conducted outside several recent NWA and WWF shows, it appears as if Woman has surpassed Elizabeth in the hearts of male wrestling fans in *both* federations. The response was surprisingly passionate, considering the bad reputation both ladies have lately developed.

"Woman is the sexiest thing alive," barked a fan emerging from a WWF card in Toronto. "She's got more life in her little finger than Elizabeth has in her entire body."

From an NWA card in Virginia came the following analysis: "Her association with Hulk Hogan has taken the life out of Elizabeth. Randy Savage is exciting, dangerous, always on the edge ... Woman shares those same qualities."

"Woman is so hot she burns rubber," said one New Yorker.

Finally, from Charlotte, North Carolina, came this ringing endorsement: "Woman is hypnotic and seductive and very powerful ... she is mesmerizing and irresistible."

The power within Woman that men around the country refer to was best demonstrated on a recent interview. While NWA champion Ric Flair addressed a question, Woman interrupted and repeated her intention to soon run the NWA. "With all due respect to Mr. Flair," she said, "I will soon be the head honcho around here."



Woman (with her bodyguard, Nitron) is making a lot of male fans forget about Elizabeth. One fan called her "hypnotic and seductive."

Flair stared at her as if she were speaking in a foreign language. "I am going to control this federation and run it the right way; run it *Woman's* way."

Viewers watching closely may have detected a slight flicker in Flair's left eye through his sunglasses.

"Woman inspires concern in people," says her friend Kevin Sullivan. "One's initial impulse is to dismiss her as nothing more than a beauty. But Woman has the eyes of a killer. Is Flair physically threatened by her? Of course not. But she has him off-balance—the same way she has the entire federation off-balance. That's her appeal: People are

drawn to her, yet at the same time fear her. It's a potent, explosive, and deadly combination of traits to possess."

Changing the subject to *male* fleshpots, is there a female out there who wouldn't pay to see a Battle of Beefcake between the NWA and the WWF? Forget Hogan and his bald head and little daughter; the heck with Flair's pathetic propositioning, his mistaken belief he is God's gift to women. I'm proposing a series of Dream Matches between Dreamboats. How about Rick Rude vs. Sting? Lex Luger vs. The Ultimate Warrior? The Rockers vs. The Rock

(Continued on page 54)

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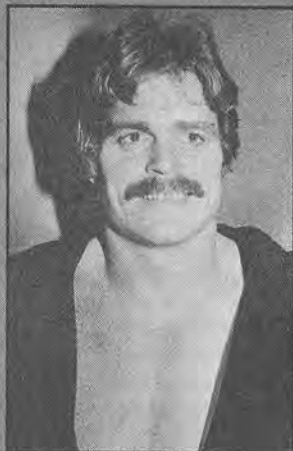
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# WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

Do you have a favorite wrestler who has left your area? Are you wondering where he is today? Then this special column is just for you. Each month we will update the whereabouts of four current or former wrestlers



## STEVE TRAVIS

This young star was enjoying a sensational career when it was cut short by a serious automobile accident in September 1984. He suffered severe spinal cord damage, but has regained the use of his legs. Now, Travis works as a per-

sonal workout trainer in Charlottesville, Virginia, and teaches the principles of exercise at Charlottesville Community College. He is also working toward earning his master's degree at the University of Virginia.



## JODY HAMILTON

Unknown to most fans, this burly grappler was a member of the "original" Assassins, one of the most brutal teams in wrestling history. Hamilton retired from the mat sport early in 1987, and now serves as a talent agent for the

National Wrestling Alliance. Who was Hamilton's partner in The Assassins? He refuses to say. "I'll never tell," Hamilton laughed. "It will be up to him to let the cat out of the bag. I was proud to be an Assassin."



## PEZ WHATLEY

As "Pistol" Pez Whatley, he was one of the most popular men in the sport. Later, he became a savage rulebreaker as Shaska Whatley. No matter where he traveled, Whatley was controversial, but he appears to have settled down.

He currently makes his home in Tennessee, and wrestles for several independent organizations as well as the WWF. "Now I have a chance to prove my greatness," he says.



## "DIAMOND" DALLAS PAGE

This flamboyant personality continues to provide commentary for the PWF while seeking out wrestlers to manage. In recent months, however, the 6'6", 250-pounder has been seen working out in a Florida gym-

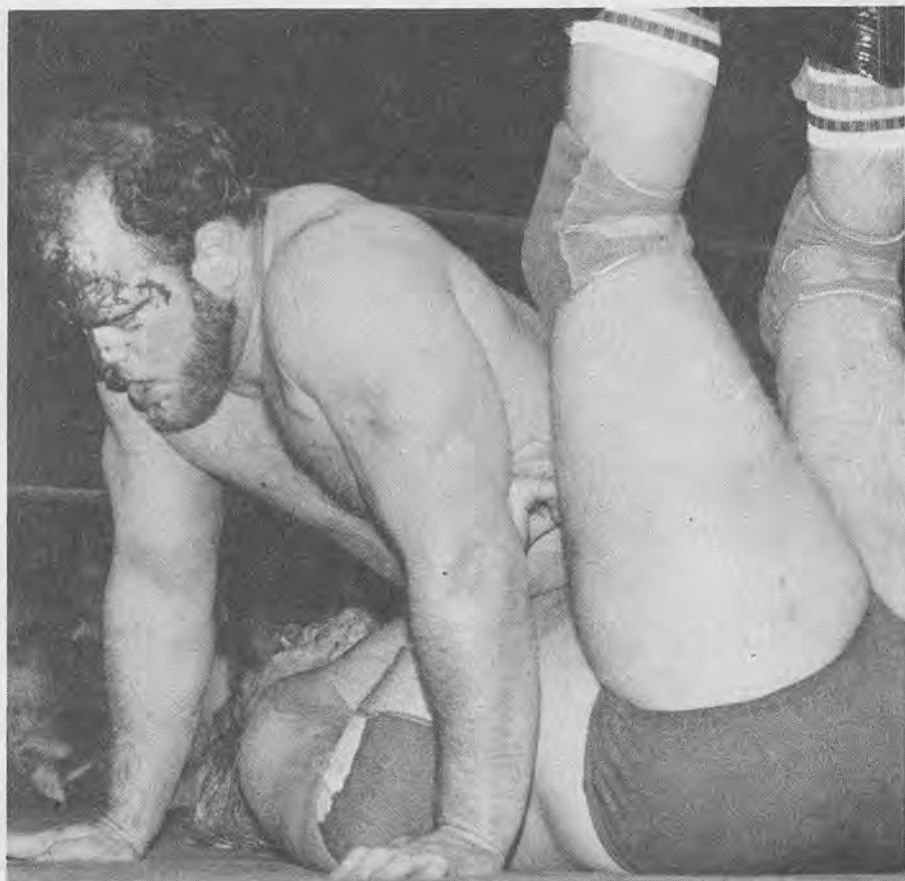
nasium with several wrestlers. "Yeah, I'm thinkin' 'bout doin' some grapplin'," said the former manager of Pat Tanaka and Paul Diamond. "They tell me I'm talented enough to be a world champion, so why not?"

# INSIDE WRESTLING

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## CAPSULE PROFILE

**"MAD DOG" BUZZ Sawyer** has earned a reputation as one of the sport's toughest men (*"You better believe it!"*) ... Early in his career, trained under the auspices of Jack Brisco and Eddie Graham (*"I figured I'd better go to the experts"*) ... Made his professional debut in 1980 (*"Ten full years as one of the very best"*) ... While wrestling in Georgia, got involved in a long and bloody feud with Tommy Rich (*"From the first day I saw him, I hated his guts!"*) ... Defeated Rich for the Georgia National title in Atlanta on May 2, 1982 (*"I haven't had a title victory that felt any better than that"*) ... Lost the belt to Paul Orndorff on June 20, 1982, in Atlanta (*"'Mr. Wonderful' wasn't wonderful that night, just lucky"*) ... Feud with Rich culminated with *"The Last Battle of Atlanta"* at The Omni on October 23, 1983 (*"Rich never got the best of me"*) ... Teamed with his brother Brett to upset The Road Warriors for the Georgia National tag team title on December 27, 1983, in Canton, Ohio (*"Everybody said the Warriors were unbeatable, but me and my brother proved them wrong"*) ... Wrestled in the WWF for a brief time in 1984 under the management of Capt. Lou Albano (*"Capt. Lou is a*



Buzz Sawyer and Tommy Rich's feud in the mid-'80s was one of the longest and bloodiest in the sport's history. Today, Sawyer leads the J-Tex Corporation into battle against the NWA's fan favorites.

*smart man, but he's better managing tag teams"*) ... Won the World Class Texas championship from Brian Adias on July 4, 1986 (*"Adias never knew what hit him"*) ... Teamed with Matt Borne to win the World Class tag team title from Chris Adams and Lance Von Erich in the final round of a tournament held on September 1, 1986, in Ft. Worth, Texas (*"Give Matt credit for being one tough customer"*) ... Lost the title to Lance Von Erich and Dingo (Ultimate) Warrior on November 17, 1986 (*"We had a good run as champions"*) ... Makes frequent tours of the Orient (*"The people over there respect me as an athlete"*) ... After returning from Japan in

1989, Sawyer joined The J-Tex Corporation, then managed by Gary Hart (*"Gary recognized how valuable I could be to his team"*) ... Became J-Tex's spokesman after Hart was fired (*"I think the Japanese wanted me in charge all along"*) ... With J-Tex teammates The Great Muta and The Dragon Master, Sawyer took on Sting and Ole and Arn Anderson in a series of bouts (*"Those Horsemen think they own the NWA, but J-Tex has their own plan for domination"*) ... Sawyer's main goal, though, is an NWA World title match (*"It doesn't matter who holds the belt; one way or another, he'll have to answer to the 'Mad Dog'"*) □



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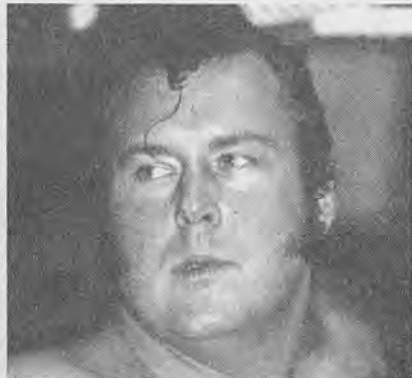
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## ROCHESTER, NY By Michael Yates



**JIMMY SNUKA**  
vs.  
**THE HONKY TONK MAN**



The advantage in this bout changed many times. When Snuka climbed the ropes to attempt his "superfly" leap, Jimmy Hart got up on the ring apron and shook the ropes until Snuka fell. As Snuka went after Hart, Honky Tonk tried to attack Snuka from behind. However, Snuka moved out of the way and Honky Tonk crashed into Hart. Snuka rolled up Honky Tonk for the pin.

**OTHER BOUTS:** Randy Savage pinned Hacksaw Duggan ... The Rockers beat The Powers of Pain by DQ ... Hulk Hogan pinned Curt Hennig ... Bret Hart defeated Iron Mike Sharpe ... Lanny Poffo beat Jim Neidhart by DQ ... Al Perez defeated Paul Roma.

## RICHMOND, VA By Paul Cormier



**BRIAN PILLMAN**  
vs.  
**MICHAEL HAYES**



Pillman used his superior speed and agility to combat Hayes' pure brawling style. Whenever Pillman took the advantage, Hayes used an illegal maneuver to change the tide of battle. After missing with a DDT, Hayes threw Pillman over the top rope, earning a disqualification. Hayes then challenged Pillman to five more minutes. When Pillman accepted, the Freebird took a hike.

**OTHER BOUTS:** Ric Flair beat Lex Luger by DQ ... The Road Warriors & The Steinners beat Doom & The Wild Samoans ... Sting and Ole & Arn Anderson defeated The Great Muta, Buzz Sawyer, & The Dragon Master ... The Midnight Express beat The Dynamic Dudes ... Kevin Sullivan defeated Hector Guerrero ... The New Zealand Militia beat Tommy Rich & Ranger Ross.

## MEMPHIS, TN By Harold Benson



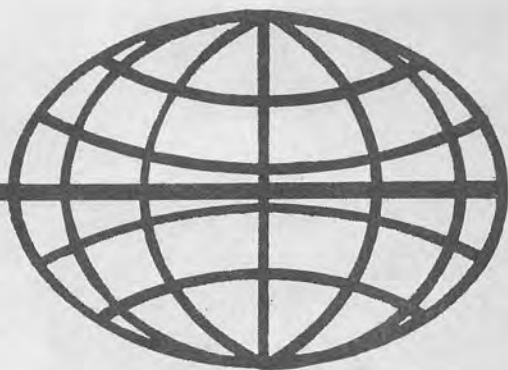
**BILLY TRAVIS**  
vs.  
**BILL DUNDEE**



In this unusual encounter, the winner would be the man who grabbed a guitar attached to the top of a 10-foot pole. Dundee dominated the match. As he climbed up to get the guitar, Tojo Yamamoto, Travis' manager, handed his wrestler some baby powder. Dundee was declared the winner, but he had no time to celebrate as Travis threw the powder in his eyes and beat him with the guitar.

**OTHER BOUTS:** Dirty White Boy drew with Steve Austin ... Chris Champion defeated The Soultaker by DQ ... Brian Lee defeated Steve Austin ... Dirty White Boy, Soultaker, & Jerry Lawler beat Dutch Mantel, Chris Champion, & King Cobra ... P.Y. Chu-Hi defeated Matt Borne by DQ ... Dustin Rhodes defeated Gary Young.

# WRESTLING CAPITALS



## DALLAS, TX By Joyce Dillon



**MATT BORNE  
vs.  
P.Y. CHU-HI**



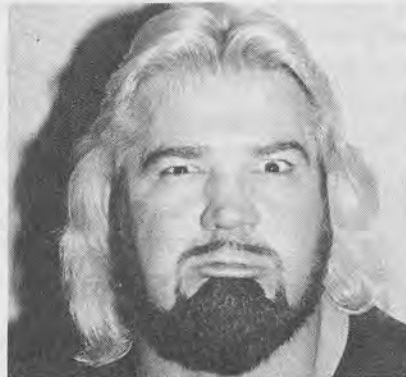
Tojo Yamamoto, Chu-Hi's manager, repeatedly hit Borne with his kendo stick, but on one swipe he missed and hit Chu-Hi on the ankle. After referee Bronco Lubich was knocked down in a scuffle, Yamamoto took off the football helmet he was wearing and threw it to Chu-Hi, who whacked Borne with it and covered him. At that point, Lubich got back up and made the three-count.

**OTHER BOUTS:** Billy Travis pinned Jeff Jarrett ... Robert Fuller & Brian Lee defeated Kevin & Kerry Von Erich by DQ ... Dustin Rhodes, Jimmy Jack Funk, & Chris Adams defeated Gary Young, Jeff Gaylord, & Chris Youngblood ... Chico Torres & Sweet Georgia Brown beat Gen. Skandor Akbar & Nasty Natalie.

## PORTLAND, OR By Kenn Jones



**SCOTTY THE BODY  
vs.  
RIP OLIVER**



As Scotty's valet, Veronica, distracted referee Sandy Barr, The Grappler handed brass knuckles to the PNW champion. Scotty took a swing at Oliver with the knuckles but missed. Oliver grabbed Scotty and executed a spinecrusher, causing Scotty to drop the knuckles. Oliver grabbed them, hit Scotty, and covered him for the pin. After Barr raised Oliver's hands in victory, he noticed Oliver had the brass knuckles, so he reversed the decision and gave Scotty the match.

**OTHER BOUTS:** The Grappler & Bryan Adams wrestled to a no-decision against "Beetlejuice" Art Barr & Jeff Warner ... The Equalizer pinned Rex King ... Johnathan Holliday beat Bill Francis by countout ... Steve Doll defeated Al Madril.

## LINCOLN, NE By Ida Murray



**ULTIMATE WARRIOR  
vs.  
DINO BRAVO**



The Warrior countered Bravo's initial attack with a clothesline and a backdrop. After a scoop-slam, Warrior attempted a splash off the ropes, but Bravo brought his knees up into Warrior's midsection. Bravo got Warrior in a bearhug, but Warrior was able to slip out and apply one of his own. Bravo executed a piledriver, but was only able to get a two-count. After hitting Bravo with a shoulderblock, Warrior covered him for the pin.

**OTHER BOUTS:** Bret Hart pinned Al Perez ... The Bushwhackers defeated The Bolsheviks ... Randy Savage defeated Hacksaw Duggan ... Hercules beat Conquistador I ... Ronnie Garvin drew with Greg Valentine ... The Canadian Earthquake defeated Mark Young.





# Matt Brock's **PLAIN SPEAKING**

**ORLANDO, FL:** Vince McMahon, the self-proclaimed Walt Disney of wrestling, comes to Disney World. No Mickey Mouse organization, this WWF. The best Royal Rumble in three years ended with Hulk Hogan left standing in the ring, which should come as no surprise because he is the WWF World champion. But the quality of the Rumble notwithstanding, this is one WWF event that deserves a one-way trip to the dumpster. Any wrestling match that relies so heavily on outside factors—and I'm talking about the draw that decides when wrestlers enter the ring—just loses all meaning from the get-go. The first five or 10 men in the ring have no chance of winning. The middle 10 don't have much of a chance, either. The last 10 are always going to be right there. In other words, it's not a wrestling match, it's a lottery. Well, at least the fans get into it, and you get the chance to see some matchups you wouldn't otherwise see. Hogan vs. Ultimate

Warrior isn't one of them. Believe me, you'll be seeing plenty of that over the next year. Whether that's good or bad depends on how your tastes run. If you're a member of the Lou Thesz fan club, it's not good news. One more comment about the Rumble card: The Ron Garvin vs. Greg Valentine submission match didn't make any sense. Now, I know there have been plenty of submission-only matches in the past, but it struck me tonight that these matches change a basic rule of the sport: the pinfall. It's like saying home runs in baseball don't count. How many times did Garvin and Valentine go for the pin? Many times, of course, because it's second nature to them. A submission-only match goes against the grain. It's against a wrestler's nature. By the reaction of the fans during most of the match, it's against their nature, too. All in all, however, this wasn't a bad card, although Orlando Arena isn't exactly The Olympic. None of these new arenas have much style. Actually, it's Disney World I wasn't so crazy about. Bunch of nutty kids running around with mouse ears on their heads. Souvenir stands everywhere you look. Just like a WWF card.



**HULK HOGAN VS. CURT HENNIG**

**ROCHESTER, MN:** Joe Blanchard, revisionist. "These rule changes were designed with the future of the AWA, the integrity of the sport, and the safety of our wrestlers in mind," the AWA president said. The new rules: no moves off the top rope, no intentional throwing of an opponent over the top rope (most federations already had this rule), and no tossing an opponent into the steel cornerposts? Of course not, but it should be up to a qualification and a possible fine. The penalty to the AWA is lack of excitement. No moves off the top rope? Well, that would take care of half The Destruction Crew's repertoire. No tossing an opponent into the steel cornerposts? Of course not, but it should be up to a wrestler to protect himself, and an automatic DQ takes the match out of the wrestlers' and referees' hands. These rules are basically designed to take the grace and violence out of wrestling. They're a step toward making the pro

**Harder than nails, veteran wrestling reporter Matt Brock has logged more miles covering wrestling than any other journalist. Every month Matt will travel to the sport's hotbeds, reporting everything he sees without fear or favor**



#### **THE DESTRUCTION CREW VS. RANDY FOX**

game more like the amateur version. Well, that's never good news. The amateur version just doesn't sell, and that's been proven time and again. A few nights after these rules were put into place, a TV taping was held here. The Destruction Crew lost three matches in one evening, all because of the new top rope rule. Three times, Mike Enos and Wayne Bloom used their off-the-top-rope clothesline against Paul Diamond and The Trooper, Tony Leone and George Anderson, and W.T. Jones and Spike Jones. Three times, the ref called for their disqualification. "They're asking us to stop doing things we've always done," Enos complained. "How can they change the rules in midstream?" Exactly. This is

something that doesn't make sense. And I always thought the AWA had some respect for tradition.

**INTERNATIONAL FALLS, MN:** One of the great ones died. Bronko Nagurski, a two-time former NWA World champion, died in a nursing home of unspecified causes on January 7. The Bronk was 81 and the news of his death hit hard. Bronko in a nursing home; that was tough to deal with in the first place. He'd been there for a year. Things got pretty bad, I guess, but we're talking about a man who was tough as nails. This guy's in the Pro Football Hall of Fame and he's a former wrestling world champion. That has to qualify him for some kind of toughness award. Well, they didn't come any tougher than the Bronk. A credit to both his sports. Only wish I had the chance to see him before he died. Regrets. Well, if there's wrestling in heaven, there are plenty of men shaking in their shoes right now. Tell 'em the Bronk is back.

**BALTIMORE, MD:** The Rock 'n' Roll Express and The Midnight Express took a little trip into the past tonight, and it was damn good. Maybe there will come a time when a match between these old adversaries won't mean anything, but I don't see that coming in the near future. When Rick Morton and Robert Gibson wrestle Stan Lane and Bobby Eaton, it's war. Before long, and I can almost guarantee this, they'll be going head-to-head with a title on the line. That's just the way it is. Morton and Gibson, who looked a little rusty and old in the CWA, seem to have come to life again in the NWA. Eaton and Lane, who were finally getting back their old energy and killer instinct, have it back big-time now. We saw Morton getting tossed out of the ring and Jim Cornette slugging him with a tennis racket. Then we saw Gibson make a great comeback and clean house with a whole bunch of flying maneuvers (many of which would've been illegal in the AWA). Finally, all four men were in the ring, Cornette was chased away by Gibson, the ref restored order, and Gibson covered Eaton for the pin. "Great win for us," Morton said. "I think this answers any questions about our comeback." You'd better believe it. These guys mean business. □



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AVAILABLE BY SUBSCRIPTION ONLY!

# HAS JERRY LAWLER DESTROYED

Photos by Sam Lowe

Jerry Lawler, a champion increasingly willing to use illegal tactics, chokes King Cobra with a chain.

## MEMPHIS' LAST HOPE?

**Jerry Lawler was once idolized in Memphis, but now he's an object of scorn. When King Cobra lost the USWA title to Lawler, Memphis might have lost its last chance to regain the man it once loved**

For many years, a Lawler victory meant jubilation and pride in Memphis, his hometown. A Lawler title victory meant all-night celebrations and, in the case of the AWA World title, perhaps a parade or two. But such fanfare was saved for the *old* Lawler.

The *new* Lawler isn't worthy of such idolatry. And his actions on January 8, 1990, only brought more shame upon his once-faithful rooters. Indeed, his victory over King Cobra to regain the USWA heavyweight title filled the fans with fear.

"I thought that if King Cobra could teach Jerry a lesson, he'd come back to his senses," said George Hansen, another Memphis native at the Coliseum that night. "Losing can sometimes do that to a man. Maybe he'd realize that being so evil just doesn't pay. Well, I'm a bit worried about what's going to happen next."

Lawler's switch from fan favorite to rulebreaker took place nearly two years

By David Rosenbaum

**T**HE NIGHT WAS over, the arena was clearing out, and the fans were making their way back to the parking lot. Another exciting evening of wrestling at Memphis' Mid-South Coliseum was history, but there wasn't a happy face in the crowd.

Jerry Lawler had won, and the irony of this wasn't lost on too many people.

"There was a time that Lawler was my hero," Lisa Rose of Memphis said. "When he had that restaurant down here, I was there all the time. But times have changed and Lawler has shown his true colors. I can't believe he's getting away with it."



ago in Texas, but it took some time for Lawler's attitude change to take effect in the CWA. When Lawler turned against Bill Dundee, Chris Champion, and Dutch Mantel several months ago, Memphis fans started to think Texas fans had the right idea.

"Lawler's scum," said Rich Barack of Dallas. "He's *always* been scum, because all he really cares about is himself. It's about time those stupid Memphis fans are finally figuring that out."

At first, CWA fans thought Lawler merely had a misunderstanding with Mantel, Champion, and Dundee. That wasn't the case. Then Lawler unleashed a vicious assault on Dustin Rhodes after Rhodes came to his aid. "The King" had gone too far.

"That was uncalled for," Rhodes recalled. "I was absolutely shocked. Being a rulebreaker is one thing, but attacking a man who helps you is another. There's definitely something wrong with Lawler."

Rick Morton also went face-to-face with Lawler's dark side. Lawler repeatedly hit Morton with two chains while referee Jerry Calhoun was unconscious. Lawler pinned Morton and used the chains to taunt the crowd.

In late December, Lawler turned his attention toward King Cobra. Lawler demanded that Cobra stop using the "King" moniker and challenged him to a USWA title match.

On December 29 at Mid-South Coliseum, Cobra won the title, thus ending the decade on a most shocking note. Lawler, crushed by the defeat and the loss of his title, refused to give in. He insisted that Cobra couldn't call himself "King." Naturally, King Cobra, thrilled over his victory, didn't relent.

A few days later, Lawler put his crown and the title of "King" on the line against King Cobra's belt. Lawler nearly regained the title with his chicanery when he knocked out referee Jerry Calhoun, piledrived Cobra, and covered him for the three-count. Calhoun didn't see the piledriver, which is illegal in the CWA, but another referee, Frank Morell, told him what had happened.

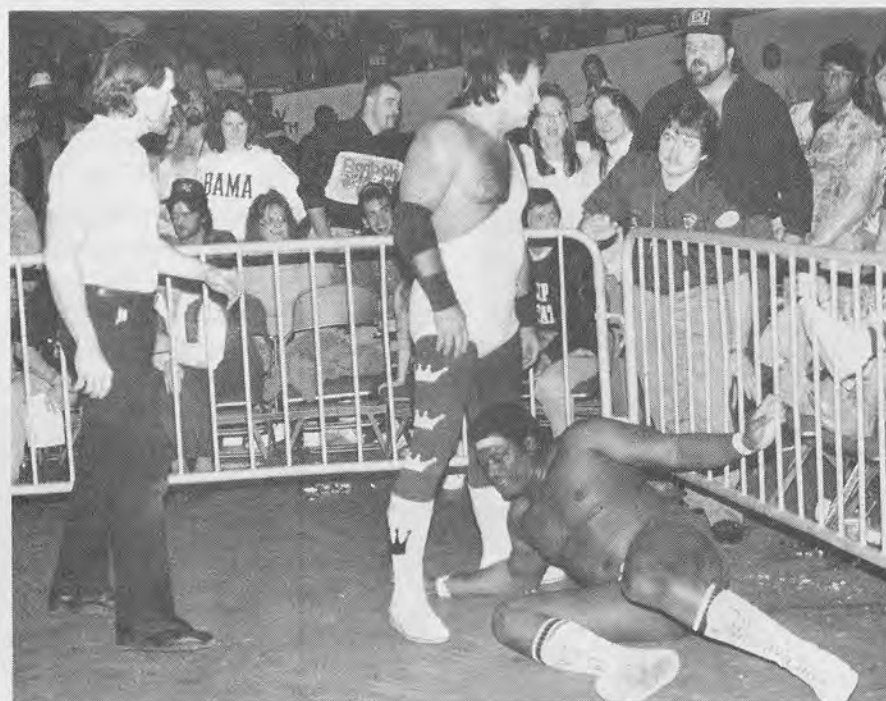
Lawler was disqualified and Cobra



Lawler may yell in pain, but Memphis fans are no longer as sympathetic as they used to be. In fact, they can be downright hostile to "The King."



"The King" was able to regain his USWA title, but Cobra gave him a tough match. Before the match, Lawler had insisted that Cobra stop calling himself "King" Cobra.



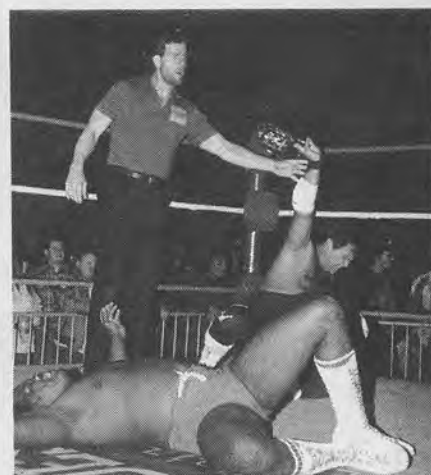
Lawler seems to be enjoying punishing Cobra (top). "The King" hears it from his no-longer-loyal subjects (above).

walked away with the crown and the title.

Lawler had been taught a lesson. But when January 8 rolled around, Lawler made it clear to everyone in Memphis that his rulebreaking ways

weren't merely an aberration.

Lawler pounded Cobra with a chain until Cobra grabbed the chain away and showed it to referee Calhoun. While this was going on, Lawler pulled a *second* chain out of his trunks and



Lawler's hand raised in victory was once cause for celebration in Memphis. Now all it causes is a cascade of boos.

blasted Cobra from behind. Lawler tossed the chain into the crowd and covered Cobra for the pin and the title.

"Cobra's a baby," Lawler contended, "and if he wasn't busy crying to the referee, he might have been ready for me. Of course, his win was a fluke all along, and it was just a matter of time before the *real* 'King' proved it."

On the other side of the building, Cobra was crushed by the loss.

"The fans of Memphis put their faith in me and I let them down," he said. "I used to have a lot of respect for Lawler and I thought I could knock some sense into him. Unfortunately, Lawler got away with murder."

"And another Jerry Lawler victim bites the dust," Lawler said, his voice dripping with sarcasm.

But who's the real loser?

Lawler once had a loyal following; now he gets booed everywhere he goes. His title means nothing because he won it dishonestly. His reign as "King of Memphis" ended when his disciples turned away.

Lawler has nothing.

The fans have nothing, too.

"He's probably the greatest athlete to ever come out of this town, and he just let down everyone," said Memphis native Roger Hammer. "If that's winning, then I like losing a lot more. It's too bad it had to end this way."

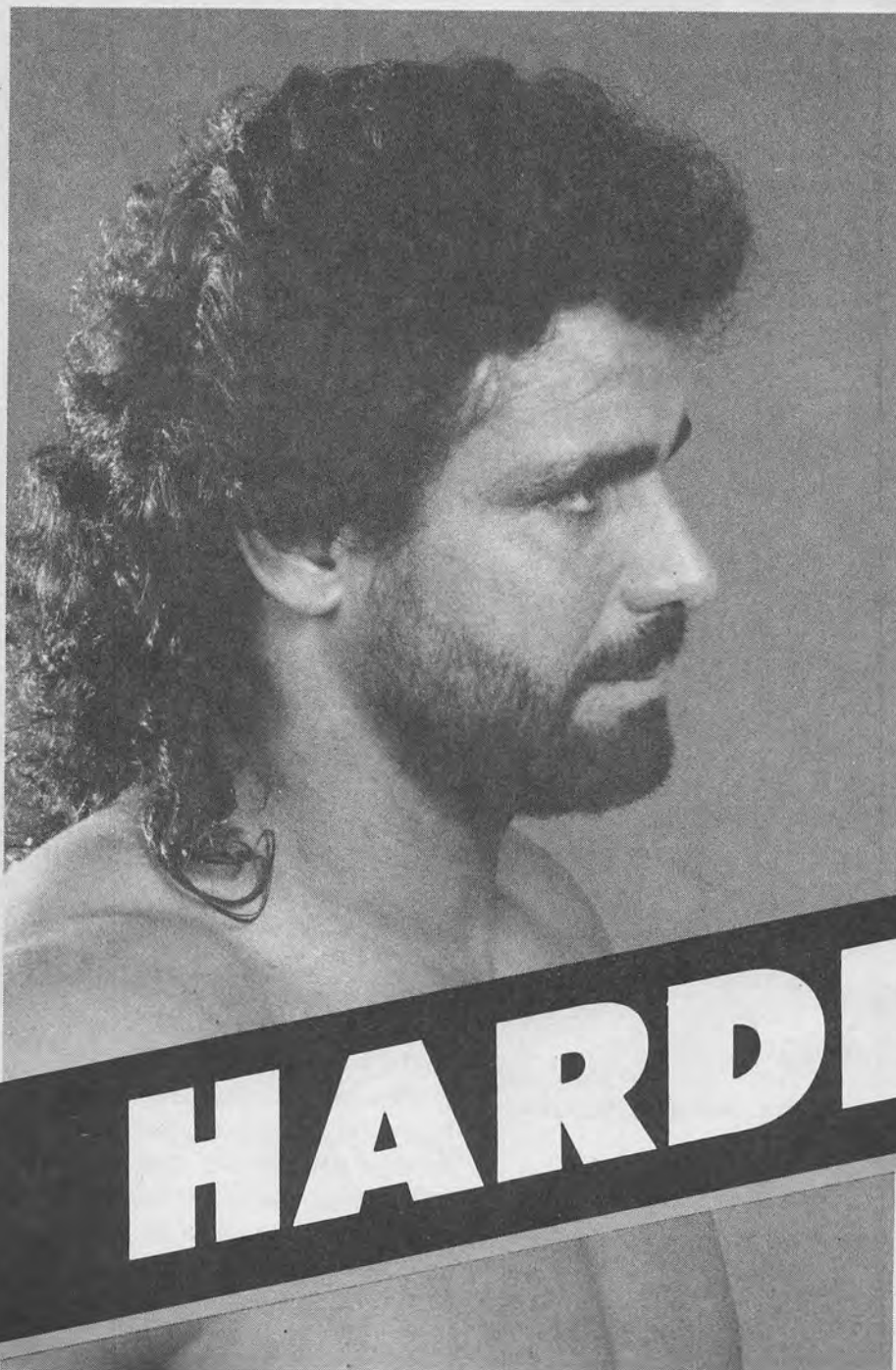
Most astonishingly, Lawler doesn't care. In his eyes, crime paid.

That's the saddest lesson of all. □



## The Painful Lesson Al Perez Must Learn

# THE FIRST MONTHS IN THE WWF ARE THE



By John Arezzi

**W**HAT DO JAKE Roberts, Hacksaw Duggan, and The Ultimate Warrior have in common?

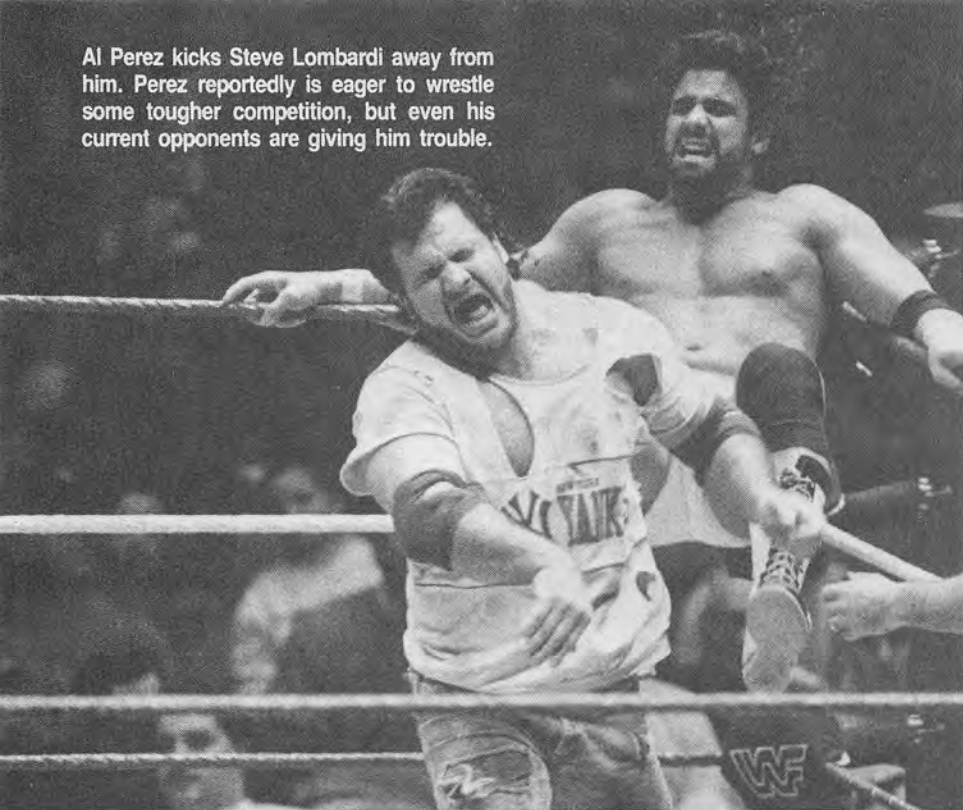
They've all had their shoulders pinned to the mat by Al Perez—but not in the WWF. Roberts and Duggan fell to the "Latin Heart-throb" in 1985 in the Mid-South area; Warrior, known in 1987 as Dingo Warrior, was downed by Perez in 1987 for the World Class Texas title.

Wrestling fans around the world are familiar with the success Al Perez has achieved since his 1982 debut. Everywhere he competed, Perez tore through the opposition, quickly rising through the ranks from contender to headliner. From his days in Puerto Rico and the WWC, through his successful run

# HARDEST

*Photos by David Fitzgerald*

Al Perez kicks Steve Lombardi away from him. Perez reportedly is eager to wrestle some tougher competition, but even his current opponents are giving him trouble.



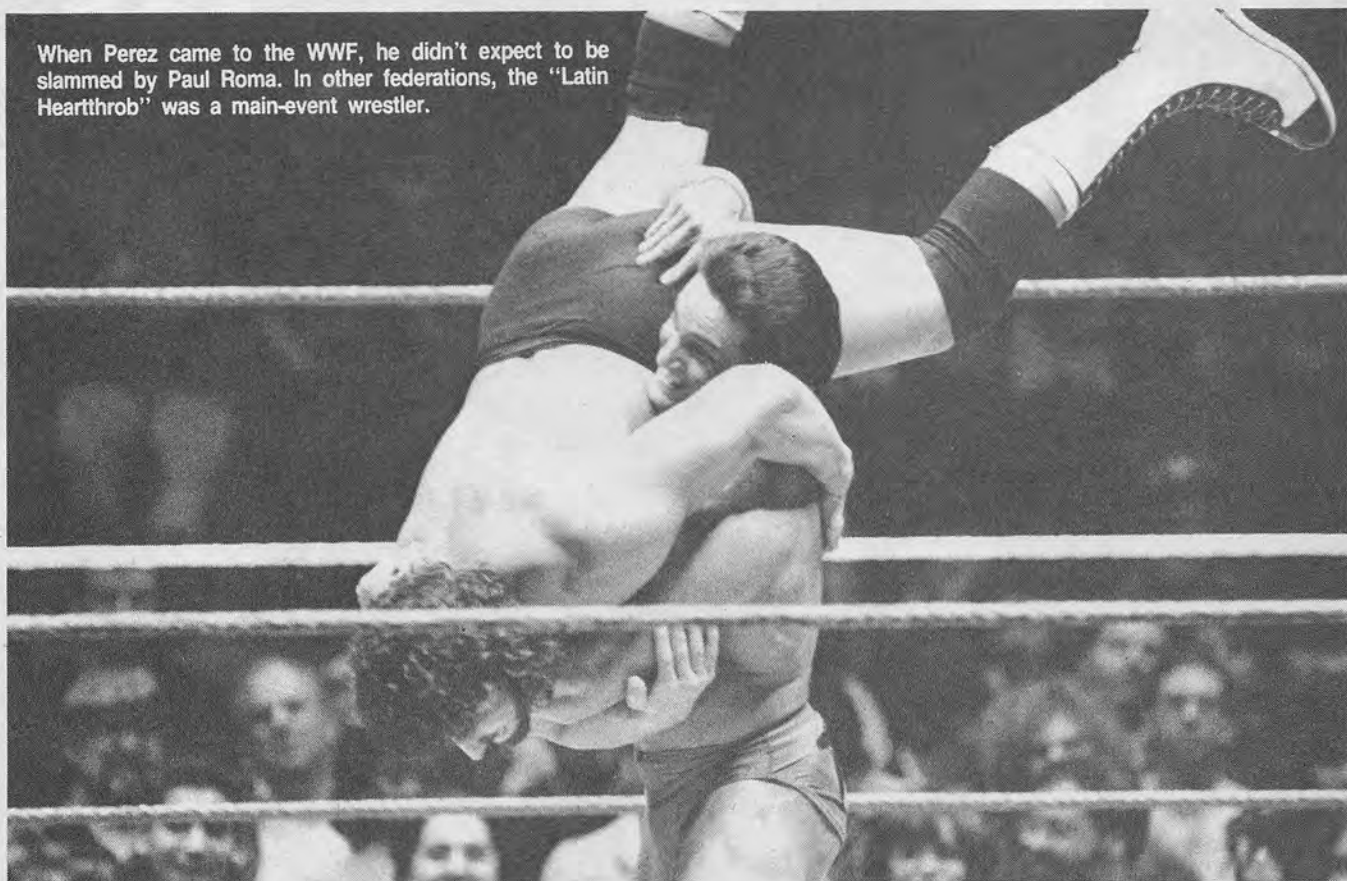
in Texas as World Class heavy-weight champion, to his stay in the NWA under the tutelage of Gary Hart, the wrestling world respected the young technician.

Main events, in fact, have come easily for Perez everywhere he has been . . . everywhere, that is, except his latest stop: the WWF.

WWF insiders report that Perez is becoming increasingly impatient opening cards rather than headlining them. "Al has become very frustrated here," one WWF source said recently. "Everyone knows how talented he is. The problem is, there are a lot of headliners in the WWF. He'll get his shot eventually, but he's got to be patient. From what I understand, though, Al's been impatient since he

*(Continued on page 56)*

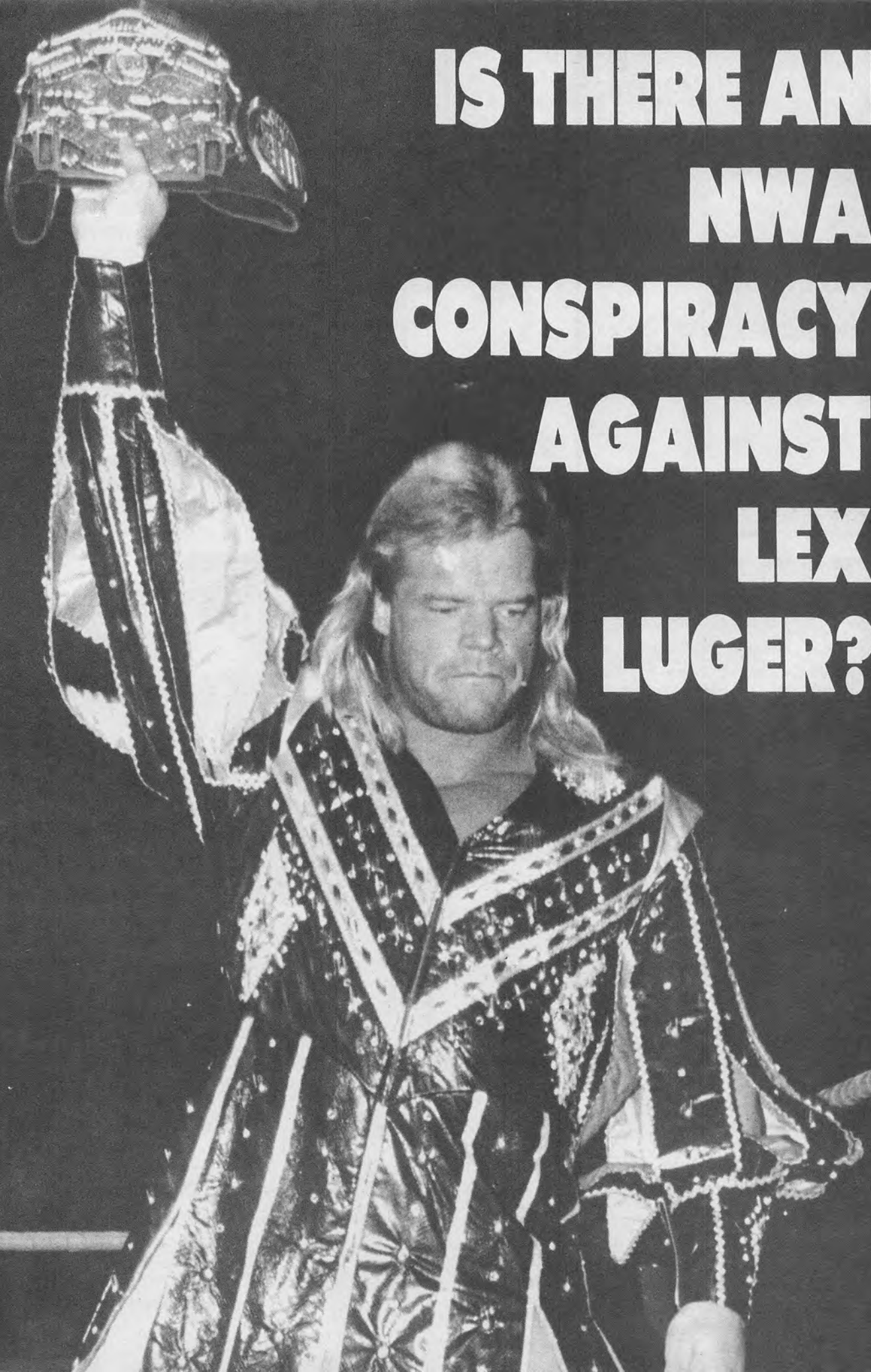
When Perez came to the WWF, he didn't expect to be slammed by Paul Roma. In other federations, the "Latin Heartthrob" was a main-event wrestler.



**Al Perez, no stranger to seeing his name in lights, has spent most of his career competing in main events. Now that Perez is in the WWF, the "Latin Heartthrob" is finding it tough to break out of the pack**



**IS THERE AN  
NWA  
CONSPIRACY  
AGAINST  
LEX  
LUGER?**



# The 1988 Great American Bash. Starrcade '88. And now Wrestle War '90. The evidence is getting stronger, and Lex Luger's convinced: The NWA is out to keep him from the World title!

By Andy Rodriguez

**L**EX LUGER LIKES the question posed in the headline. If he were a prosecutor, the defendant would have been guilty and headed for the gallows long ago.

But Luger is a professional wrestler—and the NWA's U.S. champion. And he is able shed new light on some suspicious doings.

● *July 1988. The Great American Bash in Baltimore. Luger has NWA World champion Ric Flair caught in his "torture rack" backbreaker. Suddenly, an official from the Maryland State Athletic Commission orders the match stopped because Luger is bleeding from the forehead.*

Before this happened, nobody knew Maryland had a bleeding rule. Maybe it doesn't. The rule hasn't been enforced since, and both Flair and Terry Funk were bled profusely at this year's Baltimore Bash—without a match stoppage!

● *December 1988. Flair scores a flukey pinfall victory over Luger at Starrcade. Afterward, Flair declares he'll never again wrestle Luger for the World title.*

"Luger had his chance and he blew it," Flair said.

"Fine with us," was the gist of the NWA's reply.

● *January 1990. The NWA announces its second Wrestle War card for March 5, 1990. For the previous two months, Flair and Luger had battled in some thrilling, but inconclusive, title matches.*

So it only made sense that Flair and Luger would meet again at Wrestle War, perhaps in a no-disqualification cage match, right?

The NWA signed Flair to wrestle Sting.

"When I was with the Horsemen," Luger recalled, "the NWA people said



Lex Luger clotheslines Sting. Luger is angry because Sting was granted an NWA World title match against Ric Flair at Wrestle War '90. Luger felt he should have gotten the shot because he's given Flair his toughest matches over the past several months.


they wouldn't sign a rulebreaker vs. rulebreaker title match, especially between two Horsemen. Well, Sting's a Horseman now, and look what they did!

"I'm getting overlooked again,"

Luger continued. "It took almost a year for Flair to give me a title match. Now one of the biggest cards of 1990 is coming up, and I'm getting shafted.

"Just look at what they've done and  
(Continued on page 58)





# FIVE REASONS WHY WOMAN IS POISON FOR THE

By David Rosenbaum

**T**HE WHEELS STARTED turning in Woman's mind at Starrcade '89. Everyone knew it. As Doom lost match after match in the Iron Team competition, the scowl on Woman's face grew deeper.

Doom's final Starrcade tally: zero points. A woman like Woman doesn't like losing. A Woman who's used to getting what she wants doesn't accept getting nothing.

---

Woman managing The Four Horsemen? Don't laugh. The most evil female in the NWA is after the ultimate prize. If she achieves her goal, it could destroy the quartet she seeks to dominate



# FOUR HORSEMEN

So she set out on her next project. With Doom still firmly in tow, Woman began appearing at ringside for many of Ric Flair's NWA World title matches. The rumors began spreading; very quickly, the rumors were confirmed.

Woman was after The Four Horsemen. The most unscrupulous female in the sport was after the four men—Flair, Sting, Arn Anderson, and Ole Anderson—who could undoubt-

edly make her dreams of NWA domination come true.

At first, Flair laughed off Woman's overtures.

"Hey, she's beautiful," Flair said. "Everybody knows I enjoy gorgeous women, but I make it a habit never to mix business with pleasure. She'll never manage *this* organization."

But a person with Woman's beauty and intelligence can never be underestimated. If she *did* succeed in

gaining control of the Horsemen, she would undoubtedly cause their downfall. There are many reasons why; here are five:

**1. Her beauty would cause a distraction to the Horsemen, especially Flair.**

Flair gets into the most trouble when his mind is in two places at once. For example, in last year's feud with Rick Steamboat, Flair went out  
(Continued on page 60)



# HOTSEAT

## SUSAN SEXTON

### "THE LPWA IS THE FUTURE OF WOMEN'S WRESTLING!"

**F**OR A VERY long time, it appeared that women's wrestling was dying. The AWA was the only one of the three major federations that featured women's matches on a regular basis, while the WWF's women's title was in limbo and the NWA rarely presented women's grappling at all. It has hardly been a promising situation for talented athletes such as Heidi Lee Morgan, Madusa Miceli, Magnificent Mimi, and Misty Blue Simmes.

Until now, that is. In January, the LPWA—the Ladies Professional Wrestling Association—made its debut in front of a packed arena in Laughlin, Nevada. The card was televised on a collection of cable networks reaching 58 percent of basic cable households nationwide. But a heated controversy began as soon as this exciting new promotion began operations. The officials of the new federation named Australian Susan Sexton as the LPWA titleholder before the first match was even held.

Many of the other wrestlers were outraged over this turn of events, but it is clear that Sexton has been an outstanding competitor for the past decade. In addition to holding the Australian women's title in her native country for more than five years, Sexton has been featured on cards in Japan and elsewhere. But Sexton's obvious talents haven't stopped her contenders from voicing their displeasure—not only due to her selection as champion, but because of her brutal rulebreaking style.

Associate Editor Andy Rodriguez

*traveled to Nevada to speak with the new champion as she prepared to defend her belt against Simmes.*

**Q:** Susan, I guess congratulations are in order for your designation as the first LPWA champion ever, but right now you've got a lot of people up in arms. It seems that most of the other contenders believe you somehow gained your title by shady means. How do you react to all the accusations?

“

**I'm the bloody champion now, and there's nothing that anybody's gonna be able to do about it.**

”

**A:** What a load of bull! Frankly, I'm getting a little tired of hearing people say I got this title handed to me on a silver platter, that I don't deserve it, and all that other guff. Well, I'm the bloody champion now, and there's nothing that anybody's gonna be able to do about it. The person that's really getting me the angriest is Misty Blue

Simmes. She's been running around saying that I paid off the officials, but everybody knows it just isn't true.

**Q:** You have to admit, though, that having the LPWA name you as champion seems kind of strange. Many of the other contenders think there should have at least been a tournament to determine the first titleholder.

**A:** If they wanna have a bloody tournament, then let them go ahead and schedule it. The can put me into it, and I'll win the thing with ease. That way, I can shut everybody up about this title and get on with things. Instead of complaining, everybody should be thanking their lucky stars for the LPWA. This organization is the future of women's wrestling. They've managed to get all of the top female wrestlers in the United States all in the same place at the same time. I'm really glad that this organization is around, and if the other women were smart, they'd just be quiet and accept things as they are. And if they wanna be LPWA champion, all they have to do is beat me for the belt. But I assure you that's a lot easier said than done.

**Q:** Especially with the kind of tactics you use, Susan. Tonight, you'll be wrestling Simmes in a rematch that LPWA officials ordered after the war you two had in your first bout for the title. You both accidentally tumbled out of the ring, but then







“

**I take advantage of my opponents before they take advantage of me. That's why I'm gonna be the LPWA champion for as long as I want.**

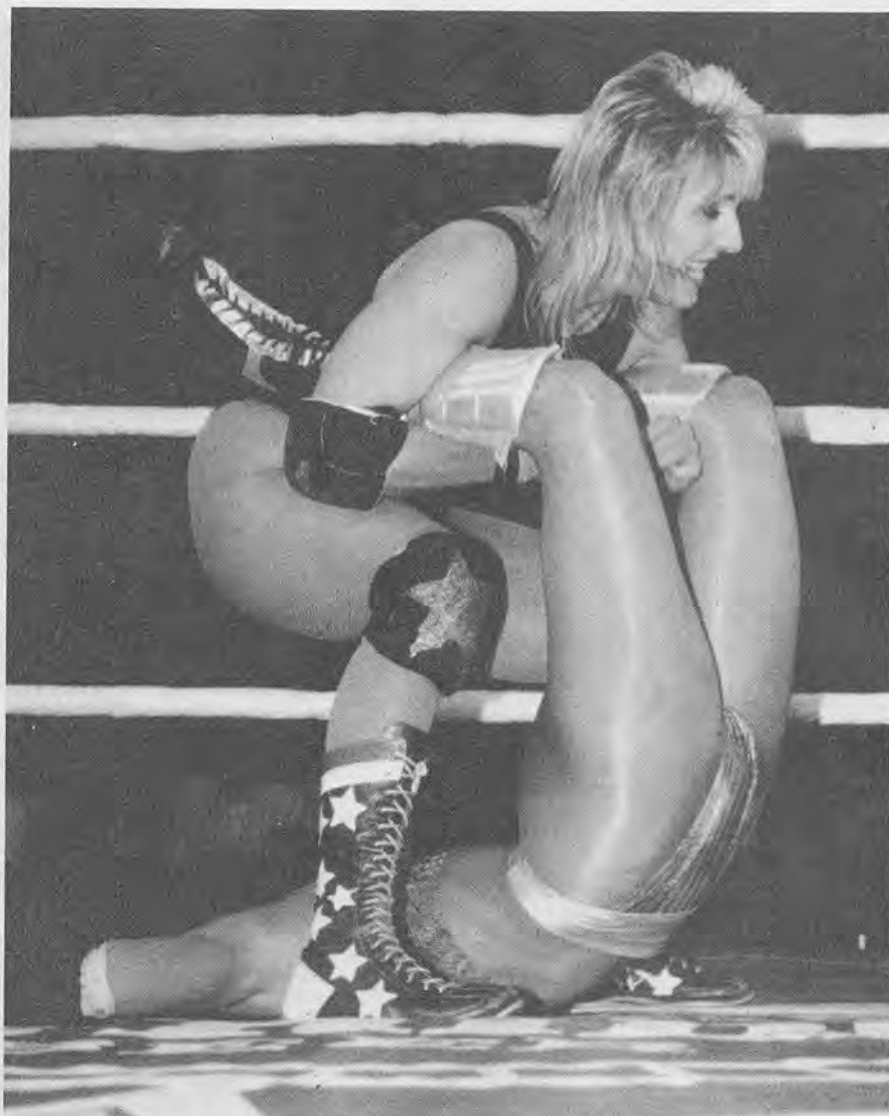
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you nearly crippled her by stomping her outside the ring. Why did you beat her so badly even after the referee had called for the final bell?

**A:** Because Misty's got a big mouth, that's why. She's been the one who's been going around casting all kinds of aspersions on how I got this title. She's just a jealous little punk who's got no talent at all. She's from Glens Falls, New York, right? That's the same place that produced Hacksaw Duggan, that big dummy that wrestles in the WWF. Well, he's pretty stupid, and Misty's equally as daft. Must be something in the water up there, eh? Looks like I'll have to be the one who knocks some sense into her.

**Q:** But she's not the only wrestler who wants a shot at you. Madusa Miceli recently returned from Japan, and she's never wrestled better. She seems to have developed an entirely new ring style.

**A:** That's bloody marvelous, because she never had one before (*laughs*). She built her reputation on being the AWA World women's champion, but her competition wasn't all that great. I ought to know—I



LPWA champion Susan Sexton catches Magnificent Mimi in a Boston crab. Sexton calls Mimi a nice girl who isn't tough enough to take the title from her.

tried to get title matches against her, but she turned me down almost every time. Then, when I finally got my mitts on her, she turned out to be one of the dirtiest wrestlers I've ever fought. That's why her new image is such a crock. She says she's changed, that she'll never break the rules, but I know what she's *really* on about. She's just manipulating as many people as she can.

**Q:** You mentioned the AWA World women's title a minute ago. How do you compare that title, as well as the WWF World women's title, to the LPWA belt? Which one has the greatest value, in your eyes?

**A:** What a stupid question! There is no doubt in my mind that the LPWA belt is the most prestigious women's belt in the world. It will be defended at least once every 30 days, just like all the other impor-

tant titles in the sport. I have to give the AWA some credit, because they're the only other organization that at least attempts to give female wrestlers some matches during their cards. Candi Devine is their champion right now, and she's a pretty fair wrestler. But you can take the NWA and WWF and drop 'em, mate. When's the last time you saw Rockin' Robin defend her WWF World title? I don't even know if she still has the belt anymore. As for the NWA, they've done a bleedin' awful job keeping women in the limelight. So there's no question about the LPWA. We've got the belt that matters most, and we've got all the competition now.

**Q:** So do you. In addition to Misty and Madusa, there's Magnificent Mimi . . .

**A:** She's a bloody lovely girl.



Misty Blue Simmes whips Kat LeRoux across the ring. Simmes and LeRoux, bitter enemies for years, now compete against each other in the LPWA, an organization devoted exclusively to women's wrestling.

**Q:** Yes, she is. She also is looking to face you for the title. What's your opinion of her wrestling talents?

**A:** Like I said before, she's a bloody lovely girl. That's about the best thing I can say for her, unfortunately. Frankly, I just don't think she has enough experience to go up against someone like me. This is a rough, hard sport. This is survival of the fittest. She's such a fashion plate; the first time she broke a nail she'd run from the ring in tears. I don't take her seriously, because I don't think she takes the sport seriously enough. Next question.

**Q:** There must be *somebody* in the LPWA you respect, Susan.

**A:** Of course there is. I give Lelani Kai a lot of credit. She's held both the WWF title and their tag team title, and she knows every move in the book. Kat LeRoux and Linda Dallas are pretty tough, too. This Terrorist Sheba intrigues me. She's got a great manager in Sheik Adnan Al-Kaissie, so she must be doing something right.

**Q:** Speaking of managers, it seems like a vast majority of the women in the LPWA use them. Already, we've seen Al-Kaissie, Jonathan Blue, Adrian Street, and a few others. Could it be possible that you'll hire a manager as well?

**A:** I'm not too sure about that one. I've never had one in the past and,



“

**Misty's [Blue Simmes] got a big mouth. She's just a jealous little punk who's got no talent at all.**

”

as you can see, I've done pretty well. But I can see that a manager could come in handy around here. I mean, I'd hate to be going against someone like Miss Linda, because I know that if I get too close to the ropes, Adrian will probably try to put his hands on me. It would be kind of nice to have someone like Al-Kaissie to look out for my back, so that's something I'll have to think about. Actually, you've put a pretty fair idea into my head there.

**Q:** Perhaps I shouldn't have mentioned it at all. Thus far, you've been successful in defending your title, but your ring style leaves a lot to be desired. I remember about 10 years ago you were totally scientific. Now you'll brawl at the drop of a hat. What happened to you?

**A:** I got smart, that's what. Sure, I used to break holds early and listen to the referee and all that other stuff that used to make the fans cheer. But I wasn't winning as many matches as I should have. Now I take advantage of my opponents before they take advantage of me. And that's why I'm gonna be the LPWA champion for as long as I want. □



# PREVIEW & ANALYSIS

## WrestleMania VI Main Event

### HULK HOGAN

VS.

### THE ULTIMATE WARRIOR

**It's the dream match we've been waiting for: WWF World champion Hulk Hogan vs. Intercontinental champ The Ultimate Warrior in a power vs. power struggle at WrestleMania VI. In this exclusive analysis, we examine both men and pick a winner!**

**T**HROW AWAY YOUR dreams—and those back issues of *Wrestling Superstars* you have stored in the closet. How often do dream matchups ever come true?

It almost never happens. Sure, we had Hulk Hogan vs. Andre the Giant at WrestleMania III, and that packed over 93,000 dreamers into The Pontiac Silverdome. But while there have been some outstanding matchups since then—Ric Flair vs. Rick Steamboat, Hogan vs. Randy Savage, Flair vs. Lex Luger—not once since WrestleMania III has there been a true dream-come-true bout.

At press time, we couldn't be 100 percent certain that WWF World champion Hogan would take on Intercontinental champion The Ultimate Warrior at WrestleMania VI. But if 98 percent certainty is close enough to make the call, then the Toronto Skydome will be packed to the rafters on April 1 for a classic war.

Hogan needs to beat the Warrior to take his dynasty into the '90s; it is arguably the last great challenge of his career.

Warrior needs to beat Hogan to become the superstar of the '90s he seems destined to be; it is his last

great step to superstardom.

Not too long ago, it seemed preposterous that they would meet. Hogan was rolling along as WWF World champ, destroying his foes with disarming ease. He relegated former World champion Randy Savage to the pile of also-rans. He humbled former AWA World champion Curt Hennig. So perhaps it was out of boredom that Hogan uttered this now-famous sentence:

"The ultimate and perfect victory would be to eliminate The Ultimate Warrior and Curt Hennig at the Royal Rumble."

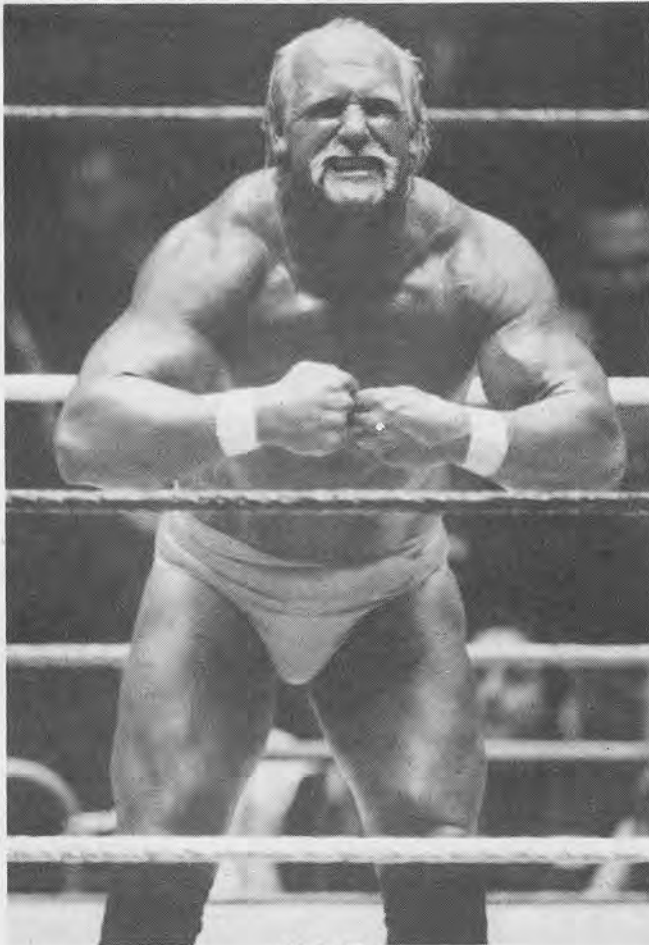
For the first time, Hogan challenged the Warrior. The following day, Warrior and Hogan teamed against Hennig and Lanny Poffo, and Hogan and Warrior nearly came to blows.

The Warrior, meanwhile, has been getting bored with his competition for the Intercontinental title. Rick Rude, who won and lost the belt to the Warrior, was hardly a challenge. Andre the Giant was destroyed time and time again, often in under 30 seconds.

And so we've come to Warrior vs. Hogan in what promises to be the greatest WrestleMania main event ever. In this exclusive Preview & Analysis, we present an in-depth look at this monumental showdown.

## PHYSICAL ATTRIBUTES

**HULK HOGAN** is 6'8" and checks in at a muscular 302 pounds ... Is in better shape than at any other point in his career ... Lost some excessive body fat and added muscle tone during his mid-1988 hiatus from the WWF ... Often criticized for lacking stamina, but proved in matches against Savage and Hennig he doesn't need to outlast opponents; he simply overpowers them ... In this rare case, however, Hogan has the edge in stamina over Warrior and would be at an advantage in a longer match.



*Hulk Hogan*

**THE ULTIMATE WARRIOR** is a 6'4", 280-pound fortress of rock-hard muscle ... Is definitely among the strongest men in the sport, and can bodypress any opponent with alarming ease ... Spends most of his time between matches working out ... Former partners and other wrestlers say they've never seen a man more dedicated to his training regimen than Warrior ... Has more than adequate speed, which he uses to charge the ring and attack unwary opponents ... Tires easily and has had trouble with mobile opponents.



*The Ultimate Warrior*

## OVERALL ABILITY

**HOGAN:** Wears down opponents with his tremendous strength, then puts them away with his trademark bodyslam and legdrop ... Once a pure brawler and power wrestler, Hogan has recently expanded his scientific repertoire, including an above-average suplex ... Has only been pinned once since re-entering the WWF in 1984, a disputed loss to Andre the Giant in February 1988 ... Uncanny ability to wrestle from behind ... Seems to draw upon outside forces and inner strength to rally himself to victory ... Capable of circumventing the rules if it means victory.

**WARRIOR:** Rarely bothers with very much strategy ... Instead, he storms opponents before the bell, tries to put them away with a series of clotheslines and, if that doesn't work, uses his feared gorilla-press-bodyslam-splash combination for almost certain victory ... Possesses virtually no scientific ability ... Is easily outsmarted ... Rick Rude and manager Bobby Heenan used an ingenious game plan at WrestleMania V to win the Intercontinental title ... Easily frustrated when behind ... Must establish a quick advantage early if he's to beat Hogan.



## INTANGIBLES



*Hogan triumphs over Randy Savage*

**HOGAN:** The fans. They nourish Hogan with incredible desire and a shot of adrenaline when he needs it most ... When Hogan is behind and the fans start chanting his name, miraculous things start to happen ... Hogan truly believes the fate of America's youth lies in his hands; it drives him to victory ... Wants to prove he's the greatest wrestler of all time ... May have convinced opponents he's invincible with his incredible come-from-behind victory over Savage at WrestleMania V ... Savage connected with an elbow-smash from the top rope, but Hogan absorbed the blow and later scored the winning pin ... Still a valid question: Can Hogan be beaten?



*Warrior brutalizes Rick Rude*

**WARRIOR:** The hungry wrestler ... Has yet to ascend to the sport's uppermost ranks, and can do so with a victory over Hogan ... Knows he is considered the second-best wrestler in the WWF and refuses to settle for anything less than supreme achievement ... Wants to win a world title before former partner Sting wins one in the NWA ... Enraged because Hogan never offered him a title shot ... Incredibly intense ... An individual with few outside interests; has little trouble keeping himself committed to a goal because wrestling is his only goal.

## OVERALL ANALYSIS

Youth and desire takes on experience and proven ability. The man who desperately wants greatness meets the man who has already claimed a place in wrestling history. There's never been a tougher match to figure than Hogan vs. Warrior.

Hogan has the edge in skill. He has learned well from his vast variety of opponents and easily adjusts to different situations. Against the Warrior, he'll have little adjusting to do: All he has to do is find a way to neutralize the Warrior's power.

Or, he can try to overpower him. But that would be a mistake. The Warrior *wants* a power vs. power match. He doesn't want to be thrown off-balance, and he'd have a hard time adjusting if Hogan wrestled

differently than he has for the past six years.

Of course, it's hard to believe that will happen. Hogan's strength *is* power. If he can pace that power over 20 minutes, he'll walk away with the belt around his waist. If he has to expend too much energy early in the match, there could be a title change.

History proves that the hungrier athlete almost always wins, as long as he has the ability to get the job done. The Warrior has the ability. His strength is absolutely frightening. He is, quite simply, the only man in the WWF that can overpower Hogan.

He'll do it. WrestleMania VI—and perhaps many WrestleManias to come—belongs to The Ultimate Warrior. □

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**The telephone wires sizzle every month as two top wrestlers voice their rage and hostility toward each other. This is the unedited transcript of their conversation, your chance to see the raw emotion that results when two antagonists face off . . . One on One**

# ONE ON ONE



*"You're like a pesky little fly, coming after my AWA World title, and I'm going to swat you from hell to breakfast and back again."*

—Larry Zbyszko

**I**T ALL BEGAN 10 years ago, with what was supposed to have been a scientific match. Larry Zbyszko challenged the man who trained him, two-time former WWF World champion Bruno Sammartino, to a match to determine the better man. Zbyszko, then a respected scientific wrestler, claimed he was tired of living in the shadow of his mentor's spectacular career.

After that match, Zbyszko did indeed establish himself, but not in the way everyone expected. Frustrated by his inability to best the "Living Legend," Zbyszko brought a chair in the ring and slammed it down over Sammartino's head. Then he did it again. And again. Instantly, one of the sport's most intense feuds was born.

Throughout 1980, Sammartino and Zbyszko tore at each other in matches all across the country. That summer, the feud came to an explosive conclusion as Sammartino defeated Zbyszko in a steel cage match in New York's Shea Stadium. But less than three years later, Zbyszko, who had dubbed himself the "New Living Legend," locked up again with another Sammartino—Bruno's son, David.

The Sammartino-Zbyszko war was alive again. Zbyszko and David battled violently on and off for the next seven years. Now, a finely tuned, more muscular Sammartino is again challenging Zbyszko, but this time there's a second reason—Zbyszko holds the AWA World championship.

This is one feud that will never die as long as both men remain active competitors. Now that they are engaged in yet another series of heated

matches, it's the perfect time to bring them together . . . "One on One."

## LARRY ZBYSZKO:

Little Davey Sammartino, mutant spudhead offspring of Mr. Potato Head himself, Bruno "Doesn't My Hair Look Like It Came From K-Mart" Sammartino. You're like a pesky little fly, coming after my AWA World title, and I'm going to swat you from hell to breakfast and back again. So if you know what's good for you, you'll . . .

## DAVID SAMMARTINO:

I know exactly what's good for me, Larry. A little bit of vindication, and a large measure of revenge. For 10 long years now, I've had to go around listening to you claim that you retired my father. Well, it's a

new day now, Mr. Legend, and I don't have to put up with your lies anymore. I've gone into heavy training, and I'm in better shape than I've ever been. Now, I'll shut your lying mouth and take your AWA World title belt all at once.

**LZ:** You and what army, buddy? Everyone knows that your fossilized old man was never the same when I got through with him, and I'll do the same for you, if you insist on coming after my belt. Free admission to Larryland is yours, my friend, but once you're in, you have to ride the main attraction: a hell-bent beating at the hands of the AWA World champion.

**DS:** Oh, really? Who else have you beat recently? Let me see. I remember a time when Sgt. Slaughter had you beat, but you

# N ONE



*"As a champion, you're the pits. I'll use the Sammartino name to bring the worth of the title back to what it should be."*

—David Sammartino

kicked [referee] Gary DeRusha to get yourself intentionally disqualified. Then I recall another time when Baron Von Raschke had you beat, but you pulled out a pair of brass knuckles, and you *again* got yourself disqualified. Then there was Ken Patera. And Paul Diamond. Match after match, you run from the ring, get yourself disqualified, and do anything you can to avoid losing. You're living on borrowed time, Zbyszko, but I'm the man who's gonna stop your clock once and for all.

**LZ:** You can't stop a clock unless you can tell the time, and I have my doubts about you being able to do that. Listen, flea, the bottom line is this: I have held titles in every federation in which I have wrestled. I am the

AWA World heavyweight champion, and have been for a solid year. The only title you've ever held is assistant french fry chef at Krystle burger.

**DS:** Shows how much you know. I was the Southern Championship Wrestling titleholder for more than three months late last year, but now I've left that area to get my hands on you. Plus, a title is only as good as the man who holds it, and I'd have to say that the SCW belt has got more value than the AWA championship right now. You've always been a good wrestler, but as a champion you're the pits. I'll use the Sammartino name to bring the worth of the title back to what it should be. I'll hold that belt with pride.

**LZ:** You'll hold this belt with your

teeth after I jam it in your mouth, *that's* the only way you'll hold this belt.

**DS:** Another shoddy claim. You always holler that you retired my father and Nick Bockwinkel. That's really funny. You're the only man in wrestling that goes around putting down the people that have caused *your* most embarrassing moments. Remember Shea Stadium, Larry? Bring back any bad memories? Well, what my dad did to you is going to be nothing compared to what you'll look like when I'm finished with you.

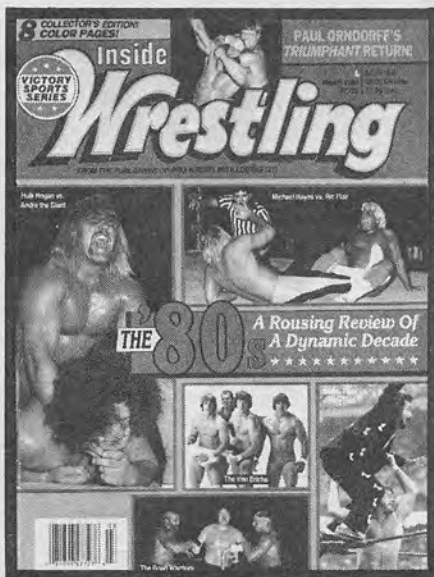
**LZ:** Yeah, I have a bad memory of Shea Stadium. Went to a Met game there last year, thought of your father, and damn near puked my hot dog. Look, the past is the past. Your dad never learned that lesson, and it sounds like you never will, either. It's the '90s, spudhead, start looking to the future. I am the future. Deal with it.

**DS:** I'll deal with it, but now I'm holding all the good cards. Just look at you. You're a flabby, aging has-been. But during the past couple of years, I've been working out with everything I've got. I'll bet I'm twice as strong as you are. And, as everybody knows, I've always been your master as a technical wrestler. After all, I've had the greatest teacher in the world.

**LZ:** Wrestling is more than technique, son, it's a mental sport as well as a physical one. Okay, so you've puffed your muscles up like some sort of muscle-headed weight-room termite, but you haven't got one percent of the mental savvy it takes to win in this sport. You're a zero, punk, always have been, always will be.

**DS:** Congratulations, Larry. Your snide comments have reminded me of why I've always hated you, but your prize is going to be the beating of your life. I just hope my father is there to see it. Bruno Sammartino is the greatest wrestler who ever lived, and you were the only black mark of his career. But when I *end* your career, it will wipe the slate clean—and it will be the proudest moment of my life. □





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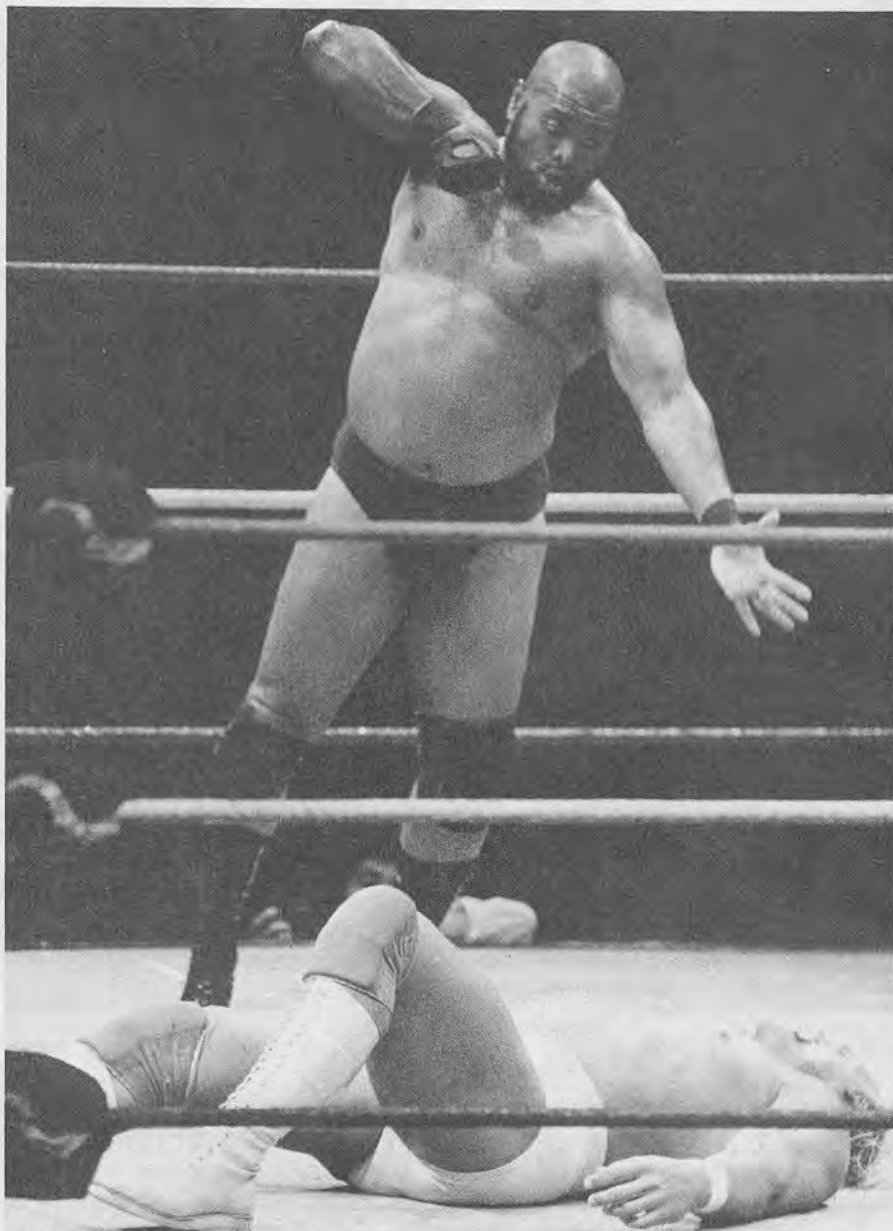
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## SINCERELY YOURS

(Continued from page 5)



Bad News Brown may have Hulk Hogan down on this occasion, but he'll never beat the "Hulkster" cleanly, in reader Vincent Leung's opinion.

I remember a match in Boston in which Brutus Beefcake pinned Bad News. The bottom line is that if Bad News can't put out Beefcake, he certainly won't beat Hogan.

VINCENT LEUNG  
 Toronto, Ontario

### A WONDERFUL RETURN

I'm glad to see Paul Orndorff is back and wrestling. I've always been a big "Mr. Wonderful" fan. I thought he should have won the WWF title, but he always got a raw deal in his matches against Hulk Hogan. I'll never

forget those hilarious videos of his where he tried to teach people how to get in shape. A few choice quips from Paul and they'd be shaking in their sneakers!

I do have to say, though, that Orndorff is going to need some more training and matches if he wants another world title shot. One match against Kerry Von Erich isn't going to do the trick. He's spent plenty of time in the gym; now he has to spend an equal amount of time in the ring.

One thing he absolutely *must* do is  
 (Continued on page 48)

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## SINCERELY YOURS

(Continued from page 46)

avoid tag teams. Teaming with Hogan got him into trouble, as did teaming with Roddy Piper. Paul is his own man, and a tag team partner cramps his style. I don't think passing up a chance for a tag title is going to bother him too much. A singles championship suits him much better than any dual honor could.

JEFFREY KINGMAN  
Salem, MA

### BOO, SHERRI

After reading Craig Peters' "On The Road" column in the February '90 issue, I had to respond. Craig, who do you think you are in condemning Hulk Hogan for beating up Sensational Sherri? You even had the gall to say Hogan should be stripped of the WWF World title for his "callous" actions.

Get real, Craig. Sherri got what she



If Sensational Sherri chooses to attack Hulk Hogan in the ring, no one should complain when Hogan roughs her up on occasion, writes Robert Huse.

had coming to her. She's been instigating trouble for too long, and it's about time she paid for her sins. Sherri is nothing more than a trouble-making tramp with a meaningless crown on her head.

The next time Sherri gets beat up,

think about all the evil she's caused, before you cry foul play. The sport would flourish without her.

ROBERT HUSE  
Georgetown, MA

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Stan Hansen ought to be commended for winning big matches in Japan, in Chris Bridges' view.

### HANSEN'S HOME

In Liz Hunter's "On Assignment" in the February '90 issue, she wrote about Stan Hansen's return to the United States. Stan was upset about many things here, and he had every right to be. Only when Stan decided to come back to the U.S. did it make news. He was winning big matches in Japan and getting absolutely no credit.

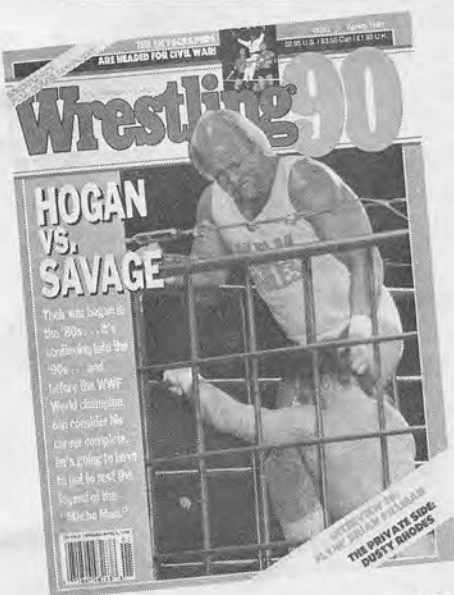
It makes one wonder if an average wrestling fan in America would even like Japanese wrestling. Like Stan said, there are no animals in the ring in Japan and there are certainly no stupid wrestlers who deliver pizza. What do these things have to do with wrestling?

Stan decided it was time to come home and take care of business. It's a shame more wrestlers don't feel the way Stan does. The sport can definitely use the improvement.

CHRIS BRIDGES  
Monticello, GA □

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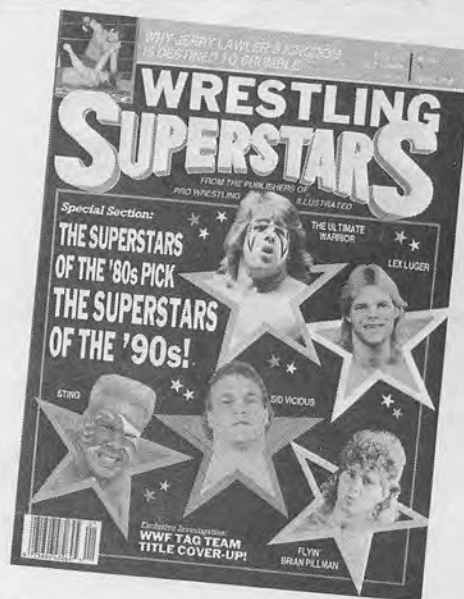
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## DRESSING ROOM DOOR

(Continued from page 8)



Although Ted DiBiase (going after Akeem with an axhandle) lasted more than 44 minutes in the Royal Rumble, his conduct was, in Dave Rosenbaum's opinion, deplorable.

Once again, DiBiase distinguished himself as a man who just doesn't have what it takes to be a top wrestler in the WWF. Three years ago, I thought he was the man most likely to dethrone WWF World champion Hulk Hogan. The "Hulkster" quickly put an end to that rumor.

DiBiase without cash is nothing. DiBiase without Virgil is nothing. And there was nothing honorable about DiBiase in The Royal Rumble.

In contrast, Andre the Giant showed he still has some life in his old, overweight body. Winning the WWF World tag team title with Haku seems to have rejuvenated the Giant.

Andre didn't last very long, but he dominated during his time in the ring. Somehow, Andre seems

to be moving around the ring better. Maybe he was suffering from some injury during his disastrous feud with The Ultimate Warrior and has finally recovered.

Of course, Andre still doesn't have the stamina necessary to win an event like the Rumble. He moves slowly and generally relies on choking opponents and battering them with his huge frame. Still, for a few minutes, Andre looked like the man who once dominated battle royals.

When it comes to domination and intimidation, there's really never been anyone like the big man from Grenoble, France.

Finally, the two Rumble superstars: Hulk Hogan and The Ultimate Warrior.

When the Warrior eliminated Shawn Michaels and Rick Martel,

leaving only the Warrior and Hogan in the ring, I felt a slight tremor beneath my seat in the Orlando Arena.

This really was what the fans wanted all along.

Hogan rammed into the Warrior, but the Warrior didn't budge. Warrior rammed into Hogan, but the "Hulkster" didn't budge.

We found out what happens when 302 pounds of muscle slams into 280 pounds of muscle: The building rocks, the ring shakes, and the men keep standing.

Finally, Hogan and the Warrior simultaneously connected with clotheslines and were knocked to the mat. About 15 seconds later, Barbarian entered the ring and the fantasy was over.

But what a fantasy! And how lucky we are that it will probably happen all over again on April 1 at the Toronto Skydome in WrestleMania VI.

Did somebody say April Fools' Day?

Indeed, this match has all the ingredients of a ring disaster. Sure, the match will sellout the Skydome in a week, maybe less. The pay-per-view buy rate will be astronomical. Vince McMahon, Hogan, the Warrior, and some lucky cable-TV operators are going to rake in the bucks on this one.

But was the Hogan vs. Warrior battle at the Rumble *really* so exciting?

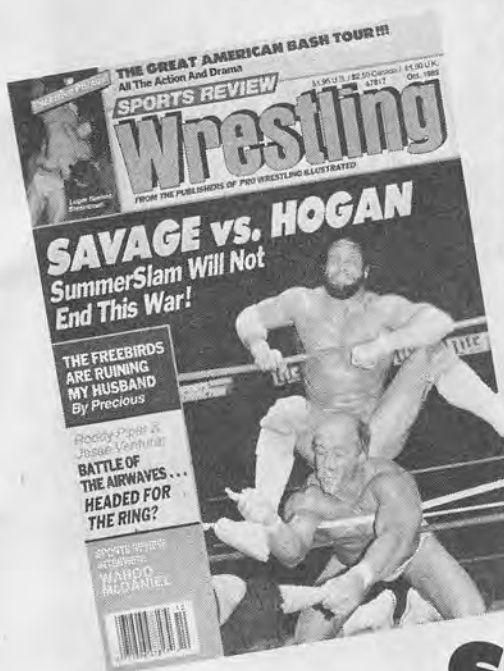
Hogan and the Warrior are too similar. A match between the two will feature lots of banging, lots of brawling, lots of throwing, but little real wrestling action.

It's muscles vs. muscles, Superman vs. Batman. It has very little to do with *wrestling*.

But everything to do with selling tickets. □

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## THE INSIDER

(Continued from page 14)



Andre the Giant and Haku may be the WWF World tag team champions, but Eddie Ellner still calls Andre a "Giant Idiot."

"This is a major accomplishment and Andre is being criticized unjustly for it. People are forgetting this is the same Andre who was once dubbed the 'Eighth Wonder of the World.' The same man who overwhelmed the sport simply by his sheer size. Yes, he is getting old, but he's still Andre ... he deserves at least to be respected as an incomparable athlete—and a true champion."

Through the years at his computer terminal, Mr. Rodriguez has maintained the hardline fan-favoring conservatism that is so dangerous to the continued health of professional wrestling. Essentially, it is a refusal to recognize facts for their face value. Thus, myths

are perpetuated (ex-athletes like Von Erichs, Dusty Rhodes, and Tommy Rich remain dominant); the biggest among them, appropriately, being the myth of Andre the Giant Idiot. An infatuation with history can retard growth—Andre's prime is hopelessly over. His physical and mental decline is well-documented; his movements betray a man more likely to push up daisies than push down opponents. Yet Rodriguez insists on heaping praise upon him.

The Polo Grounds was the site where the New York Giants once captured several World Series; it used to be known as a House of Champions. Now, its acreage hosts a dilapidated, crumbling

"What do you think of that, Matt?" I needle. "Can't judge books by their covers," I say. Matt expresses his doubts that anyone in the bar could read, let alone deserve to be compared to books, but adds, "it's good to know that even the slimy, ignorant, degenerate crowd you hang around with can appreciate *something*. There's hope for this sport yet." □

FRANCO COLLETTIS

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## ON ASSIGNMENT

(Continued from page 16)

'n' Roll Express?

A sure thing, right? Guaranteed box office ... lines around the block?

Not so, according to *Inside Wrestling* staff psychologist Dr. Sidney M. Basil.

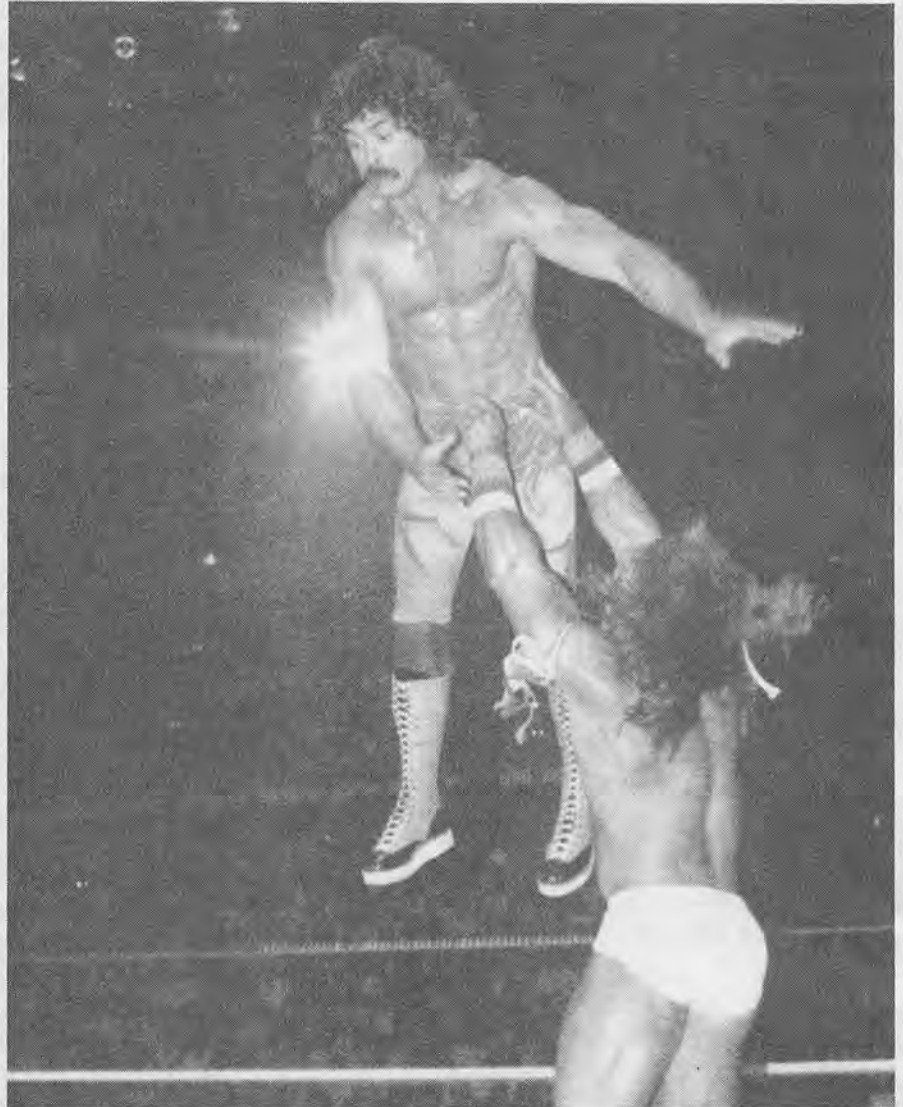
"For women, the idea of two hunks pounding each other into bloody pulps has hardly any appeal," the good doctor cautioned. "The thought of either man getting hurt makes the match harder for the ladies to watch."

Basil recalls a questionnaire he handed out several years ago to Texas fans before a match between Kerry Von Erich and Gino Hernandez. "I asked the females in attendance two questions: Who do you want to win? and, Do you want the loser to suffer? Ninety-eight percent of the respondents wanted Kerry to win; only four percent hoped he'd inflict pain on Hernandez.

"At the time, Hernandez was one of the biggest rulebreakers in Texas, but he was good-looking, regarded as a ladies' man, and had an engaging, if somewhat inflated, personality. The ladies couldn't bear to see him suffer."

When Basil first brought this unusual theory to my attention, I thought, quite frankly, *he* needed a psychologist. What could be more of a turn-on than watching two hot bodies sweat and thrash in mortal combat? Then I recalled the uncharacteristic reaction I've had to this whole Roddy Piper-Rick Rude feud. Sometimes I can barely watch the screen when Rude and Piper start slugging each other.

Readers familiar with the hot/cold relationship Rude and I have had over the years know he and I have entered a particularly frigid era, yet the prospect of him taking a beating still fills me with



Watching Rick Rude get beaten up bothers Liz Hunter, who has interviewed the "Ravishing One" dozens of times in her career. Nevertheless, Hunter would like to see a series of "dreamboat" matches among men like Rude, Lex Luger, and Sting.

nausea. I guess when you appreciate the male form for a living, you can't stand to see it scarred; we ladies treat our hunks getting hammered like the desecration of fine art.

Speaking of art ... Now that Hulk Hogan has added a victory in the Royal Rumble to his vast collection of accomplishments, what more is there left for him to do? There is one thing, at least. The Ultimate Warrior promises to be the "Hulkster's" stiffest challenge yet. The aggressive, no-nonsense attitude of the Warrior reminds me of Hogan at the be-

ginning of his career: rough, rugged, superbly confident, and willing to withstand anything to accomplish his goals. It doesn't take a fortuneteller to see this feud exploding into the main event of WrestleMania VI. WWF sources report they have never seen Hogan so pumped up for an opponent. "It's rejuvenated him," the source said.

It'll have to. In this battle, my money is on the man with the war paint. It's time to crown a new WWF champion; the era of The Ultimate Warrior is about to begin. □

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## AL PEREZ

(Continued from page 31)



After several months in the WWF, Perez, by his own account, is mired in preliminary bouts against Roma (above) and Lombardi (below).



broke into the sport."

Legendary wrestler Karl Gotch, one of the men instrumental in training Perez, laughed when he was told that his former pupil was getting itchy for stiffer competition.

"Al hasn't changed one bit," Gotch said with a grin. "He was like that when I trained him. He always wanted bigger and better opponents." Gotch's advice for Perez today? "Bite the bullet, Al, your time will come. Just start winning, and sooner or later they'll have to take notice of you."

Another keen observer from Perez' past had a different opinion of the situation, however.

"What Al needs is a manager," said Gary Hart, who handled Perez during his most successful periods in World Class and the NWA. "Al is a ball of fire in the ring, but

outside the ring is where the trouble begins. He needs someone constantly pushing him to train, and pushing the promoters for the bigger matches. Al is a great *wrestler*, but a lousy businessman. My advice is for Al to get a manager—quickly—before his temper causes some problems with the promoters."

The answer to Perez' problems might not be so simple, however. Newcomers to the WWF, especially highly touted newcomers, are under enormous pressure. At that level, they are wrestling for their professional lives. Fail in the WWF, and admit that you are incapable of realizing your dreams. "That's an incredible distraction," said Junkyard Dog, who tried to council younger wrestlers during his WWF stay. "A lot of these guys, as talented as they are, are overwhelmed by the concept of failure. They wrestle *not to lose*, and believe me, that's no way to win."

Perez, for now, seems to fit right into that pattern.

"Al's dream was to headline Madison Square Garden," said Gotch. "Although he *has* wrestled in the Garden, his places on the card have all been either opening the show or in one of the lower preliminary bouts. I know Al real well, and I know that he can only be at his best when he's wrestling the best. He's wrestling down to the level of his competition, and he's not wrestling well. Certainly, he won't impress the promoters if he's not at his best."

Perez' biggest problem is that his ego will not allow him to realize the precarious position he's in. He'll tell anybody who will listen that the reason he hasn't received headline bouts is because the competition is afraid of him. If somebody points out that he hasn't

been winning consistently against weaker competition, he'll tell them that his skills have eroded because they haven't been tested.

"What he fails to see," said Junkyard Dog, "is that any lack of success he's had is all mental. And that's tougher to overcome than anything. Sure, he can get a manager, but how many managers have the ability to get inside a wrestler's head? Most of them are more concerned with getting into their pockets."



Gary Hart, who managed Perez when he was the World Class champion in 1987, says Perez is falling now because he doesn't have a manager.

Perez has to find the answers from within. He has to realize that his past victories don't mean anything if he's going to lose to the Brooklyn Brawler. "I've told a lot of youngsters in the same position that, in the WWF, they have to forget about everything and just gut it out for the first six months," said JYD. "Get past those few months, and good things can happen. If you get caught up in everything, you're destined for failure."

For a man who holds victories over Hacksaw Duggan, Jake Roberts, and Ultimate Warrior, that would be a horrible waste. ☐

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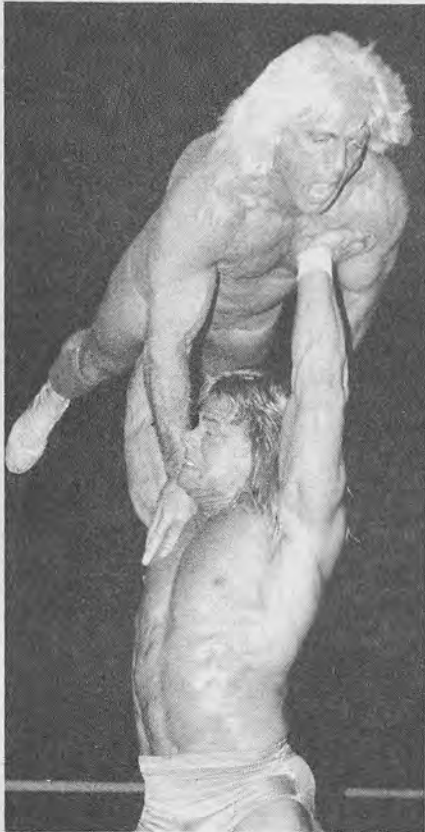
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## LEX LUGER

(Continued from page 33)



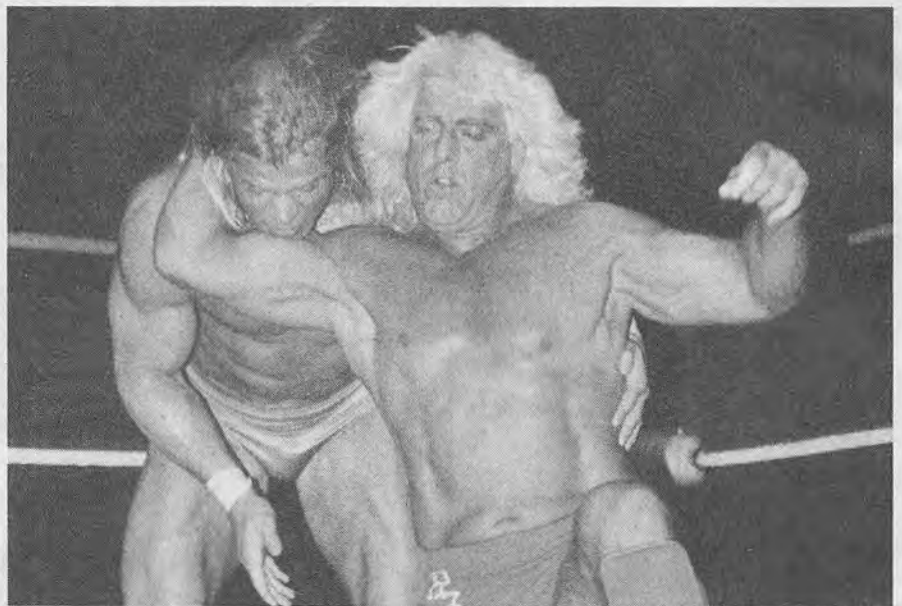
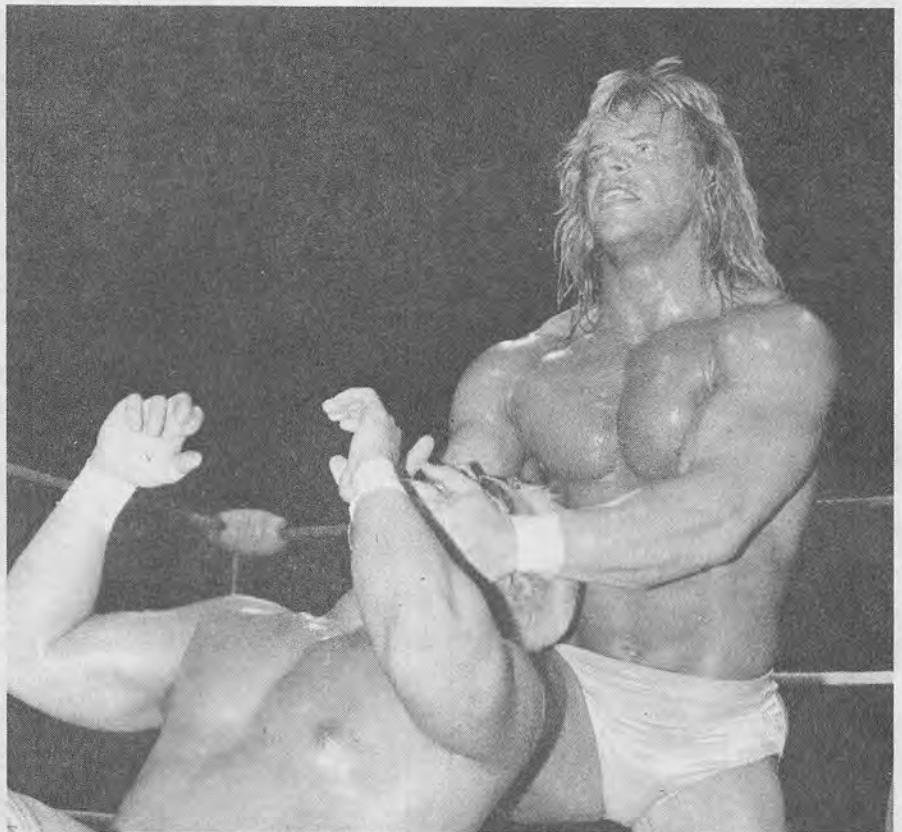
Luger is much more powerful than Flair, but Flair's scientific ability is the equalizer.

how their policy changes each time. It's very clear that somebody up there doesn't like me and doesn't want that belt around my waist. Maybe they're scared of me. Well, they shouldn't be scared of the man that'll pack arenas around the world for them."

The Flair-Sting match is the most unusual—and, perhaps, the most damaging—evidence against the NWA. The NWA, like most federations, is reluctant to match rulebreakers vs. rulebreakers for fear that the fans won't have a rooting interest and won't buy tickets.

"This is easy to explain," Flair said. "When the 'Stinger' pinned me at Starrcade, that made him deserving of a title shot. If Luger thinks otherwise, then he's out of his mind. Listen, Luger's gotten plenty of title shots against me. This is the third time around for him, and he still can't beat me. Doesn't that tell you something?"

Luger, of course, contends he beat Flair several times during December



Matches against Sting (top) are not what Luger wants at this point. He wants the "Nature Boy," though Flair has dominated him in the ring over the past several years (above).

and January, but wasn't awarded the decision. In one case, Luger used the ropes for leverage to pin Flair. The referee made the three-count, but saw the infraction at the last moment and disallowed the pin. Flair went on to victory over a distracted Luger.

"And they're telling me that Flair's

always been this high and mighty champion, right?" Luger said. "For years, this guy got away with bending the rules, outside interference, every kind of cheating imaginable. Now he's the NWA's little angel.

"Well, I'll tell you something," Luger continued, "this bit with the ropes is a

lot tamer than anything Flair's ever done. When J.J. Dillon was around, there wasn't anything this guy wouldn't do to save his title. Of course, the NWA always let him get away with it, especially that rat Tommy Young."

Young, the federation's premier referee and the man who handles most title bouts, has often been accused of favoring Flair. Many times, in fact, Young has had his back turned while opponents pinned Flair.

"I think people fail to realize how much responsibility a referee has in a title bout, especially when there are seconds at ringside," Young said. "Besides, I'm a staunch believer that if you're going to win a title, it has to be convincing. There can't be any question. In Luger's case, there've always been questions."

Indeed, Luger beat himself when Flair pinned him at Starrcade '88. Luger again had Flair caught in a backbreaker when his knee collapsed. Flair fell on top of Luger for the pin.

More recently, Luger took the time to argue with the referee after his illegal pin when he should have concentrated on re-pinning an already weakened Flair.

Still, the argument for the anti-Luger conspiracy is very strong. Luger gets away with *nothing*. He is closely watched and always punished. He must fight for every title shot he gets.

If we're to accept the anti-Luger conspiracy theory, there's one question left: *Why* is there a conspiracy?

"There is no conspiracy," said NWA Vice President Jim Herd, who claimed he'd welcome a Luger title reign. "He'd make a fine champion. When he's on his best behavior, and I'll admit that doesn't happen much anymore, he's an outstanding example of what it takes to make it in this sport. Lex is a special wrestler and he's been a fine U.S. champion. If he wins the World title, I'd be the first to shake his hand."

There is a lot of circumstantial evidence on the table to support the conspiracy theory. But conspiracy or not, Lex Luger is a very unhappy U.S. champion. ☐

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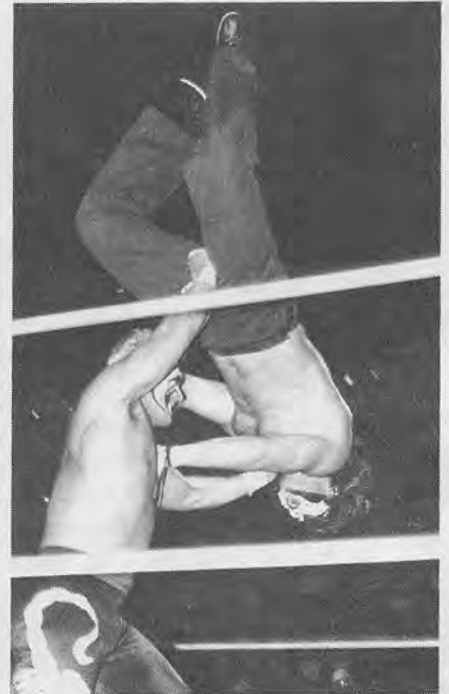


# WOMAN

(Continued from page 35)



Scott Steiner armbars Doom I (above); Doom has floundered under Woman's leadership. Sting (top right, slamming The Great Muta) says he'd never feel comfortable having Woman as the Horsemen's manager.



of the way to flaunt his attraction to women. In every big match with Steamboat, Flair was accompanied to the ring by a virtual harem.

As we all know, Steamboat was more than a match for Flair.

In other words, when there are beautiful women around, Flair can't keep his mind on business. Instead of trying to win a match, he tries to impress his women. Such an attitude can only get a wrestler into trouble.

Of course, this is not Woman's fault. It's Flair's fault. Her beauty is a natural thing. Flair's inability to control his attraction to her beauty is something he'd have to change.

Could he?

## **2. Woman mismanaged Doom. She'll mismanage the Horsemen.**

Doom was feared at first. By the end, they were not. Woman did nothing with this team. She didn't develop their strategy or improve their training methods. They were

never in synch and always seemed to lack direction.

Woman's method of dealing with adversity was to sulk. That's no way to get a team back on the right track.

The initial impact was there. Doom seemed to be a fearsome team when they broke upon the NWA scene. They immediately landed title shots against NWA World tag team champs Rick and Scott Steiner. They proceeded to do nothing with them.

Starrcade '89 was the final blow. A horrendous performance showed that Doom is not among the elite teams in the federation. They really didn't belong in the Iron Team competition to begin with.

Of course, Woman's one contribution to Doom was getting them big matches. Once she got them there, however, she didn't know what to do.

It's almost scary to imagine what damage she would do to the Horsemen, a team with unlimited potential.

## **3. Woman is evil. She'd restore evil to the Horsemen, who have finally embraced the fans' cheers.**

Let's get one thing straight: The Horsemen would be rulebreakers under Woman. There'd be no choice. Woman has chosen her direction in life. She has no interest in doing things by the book. She does things *her way*.

Sting and Flair are heroes to the fans. Ole and Arn Anderson have finally gained the fans' respect. Surely, Woman would love to see the Horsemen break some hearts.

"One thing I'll never do, and you can take me to my word on this, is turn my back on the fans," Sting said. "That's one reason why this whole Woman thing is laughable. Listen, I enjoy being a member of the Horsemen, but not if it means changing the way I wrestle. To me, the best part of this sport is hearing the fans cheer."

Which brings us to the fourth reason why Woman would poison the Horsemen:

**4. The Horsemen could not survive in their present form under Woman.**

She'd pull them apart. Sting said he'd never turn against the fans. Flair, a rulebreaker for most of his career, seems to enjoy being in the fans' good graces.

Then there's Ole and Arn, two men who seem uncomfortable as fan favorites. Both men did it for the



The Road Warriors double-team Doom II. Doom showed great promise when Woman first brought them into the NWA, and many people fear she will ruin the Horsemen the way she ruined Doom.

sake of Flair, their longtime ally. Both men could easily go back to their more familiar rulebreaking ways.

**5. Woman cares only for herself. If things started going wrong with the Horsemen, she'd probably desert them.**

Woman has not proven her ability to deal with adversity. She has not shown any loyalty. If the Horsemen started losing matches and dissension set in, Woman would only pull them further apart.

Look what happened with Doom. Woman stopped showing interest in Doom when they started losing matches. There have been Horsemen slumps in the past, although they usually don't last too long. No wrestler can win every match. No four men—and we're talking about any four men—can always work together in harmony.

With Woman around, harmony wouldn't last too long.

It never does. ☐

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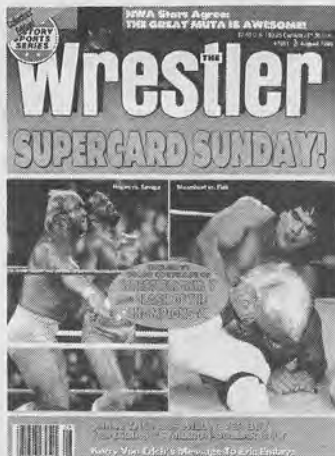
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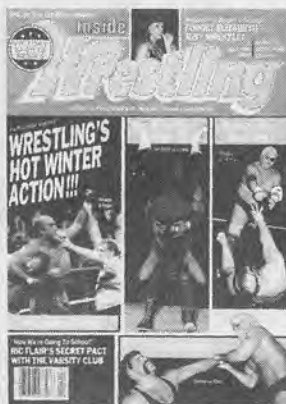
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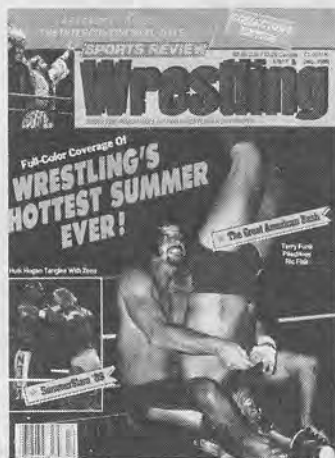
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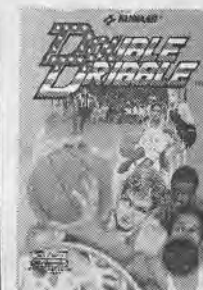
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WWF Intercontinental champion

- 4—**LEX LUGER**  
U.S. champion
- 5—**STING**  
No. 1 contender: U.S. title
- 6—**CURT HENNIG**  
No. 2 contender: WWF title
- 7—**ARN ANDERSON**  
NWA TV champion

- 8—**JERRY LAWLER**  
USWA champion
- 9—**LARRY ZBYSZKO**  
AWA World champion
- 10—**KERRY VON ERICH**  
USWA Texas champion
- 11—**BILL DUNDEE**  
CWA champion

- 12—**RANDY SAVAGE**  
No. 4 contender: WWF title
- 13—**RODDY PIPER**  
No. 4 contender: WWF title
- 14—**SCOTTY THE BODY**  
PNW champion
- 15—**TONY ATLAS**  
ICW champion

## NWA

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243, Minneapolis, MN
- 2—**LEX LUGER**  
268, Chicago, IL
- 3—**STING**  
260, Venice Beach, CA

- 4—**ARN ANDERSON**  
249, Minneapolis, MN
- 5—**BUZZ SAWYER**  
240, St. Petersburg, FL
- 6—**THE GREAT MUTA**  
245, Tokyo, Japan
- 7—**STEVE WILLIAMS**  
265, Norman, OK

- 8—**MIKE ROTUNDO**  
245, Syracuse, NY
- 9—**KEVIN SULLIVAN**  
252, Boston, MA
- 10—**NORMAN THE LUNATIC**  
380, Saginaw, MI
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222, Lexington, TN

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- 13—**OLE ANDERSON**  
256, Minneapolis, MN
- 14—**DRAGON MASTER**  
248, Tokyo
- 15—**TOMMY RICH**  
248, Hendersonville, TN

## AWA

- 1—**LARRY ZBYSZKO**  
248, Pittsburgh, PA
- 2—**DAVID SAMMARTINO**  
225, Pittsburgh, PA
- 3—**BARON VON RASCHKE**  
271, W. Berlin, Germany

- 4—**JOHN NORD**  
316, Bozeman, MT
- 5—**SGT. SLAUGHTER**  
310, Parris Island, SC
- 6—**COL. DeBEERS**  
248, Cape Town, S. Africa
- 7—**PAUL DIAMOND**  
230, Thunder Bay, Ontario

- 8—**TOMMY JAMMER**  
265, St. Joseph, MO
- 9—**THE TROOPER**  
243, Charlotte, NC
- 10—**DERRICK DUKES**  
235, Boston, MA
- 11—**THE RUSSIAN BRUTE**  
285, Moscow, Russia

- 12—**JONNIE STEWART**  
242, Pacific Palisades, CA
- 13—**NIKITA KOLOFF**  
275, Moscow, Russia
- 14—**RICKY RICE**  
230, Edina, MN
- 15—**BRAD RHEINGANS**  
248, Appleton, MN

## WWF

- 1—**HULK HOGAN**  
302, Venice Beach, CA
- 2—**ULTIMATE WARRIOR**  
280, Queens, NY
- 3—**CURT HENNIG**  
235, Minneapolis, MN

- 4—**RODDY PIPER**  
231, Glasgow, Scotland
- 5—**RANDY SAVAGE**  
245, Sarasota, FL
- 6—**DUSTY RHODES**  
302, Austin, TX
- 7—**RICK MARTEL**  
236, Quebec, City, Quebec

- 8—**JAKE ROBERTS**  
246, Stone Mountain, GA
- 9—**TED DIBIASE**  
247, Omaha, NB
- 10—**RICK RUDE**  
246, Robbinsdale, MN
- 11—**DINO BRAVO**  
256, Montreal, Quebec

- 12—**BIG BOSSMAN**  
348, Cobb County, GA
- 13—**BRUTUS BEEFCAKE**  
273, San Francisco, CA
- 14—**JIMMY SNUKA**  
250, Fiji Islands
- 15—**RON GARVIN**  
231, Montreal, Quebec

## MOST POPULAR

- 1—**HULK HOGAN**  
Last month: No. 1 Most Popular
- 2—**STING**  
Last month: No. 3 Most Popular
- 3—**RIC FLAIR**  
Last month: No. 2 Most Popular

- 4—**THE ULTIMATE WARRIOR**  
Last month: No. 5 Most Popular
- 5—**DUSTY RHODES**  
Last month: No. 8 Most Popular
- 6—**RICK STEINER**  
Last month: No. 6 Most Popular
- 7—**RODDY PIPER**  
Last month: No. 4 Most Popular

- 8—**BRIAN PILLMAN**  
Last month: No. 9 Most Popular
- 9—**BRUTUS BEEFCAKE**  
Last month: No. 7 Most Popular
- 10—**KERRY VON ERICH**  
Last month: No. 10 Most Popular
- 11—**NORMAN THE LUNATIC**  
Last month: No. 11 Most Popular

- 12—**JAKE ROBERTS**  
Last month: No. 12 Most Popular
- 13—**JEFF JARRETT**  
Last month: No. 15 Most Popular
- 14—**PAUL DIAMOND**  
Last month: unrated
- 15—**RIP OLIVER**  
Last month: unrated

## MOST HATED

- 1—**LEX LUGER**  
Last month: No. 1 Most Hated
- 2—**CURT HENNIG**  
Last month: No. 2 Most Hated
- 3—**RICK RUDE**  
Last month: No. 3 Most Hated

- 4—**RANDY SAVAGE**  
Last month: No. 4 Most Hated
- 5—**JERRY LAWLER**  
Last month: No. 6 Most Hated
- 6—**BUZZ SAWYER**  
Last month: No. 11 Most Hated
- 7—**DINO BRAVO**  
Last month: No. 8 Most Hated

- 8—**TED DIBIASE**  
Last month: No. 7 Most Hated
- 9—**LARRY ZBYSZKO**  
Last month: No. 10 Most Hated
- 10—**THE GREAT MUTA**  
Last month: No. 9 Most Hated
- 11—**COL. DeBEERS**  
Last month: unrated

- 12—**SCOTTY THE BODY**  
Last month: No. 13 Most Hated
- 13—**BILLY TRAVIS**  
Last month: No. 14 Most Hated
- 14—**TONY ATLAS**  
Last month: unrated
- 15—**BAD NEWS BROWN**  
Last month: unrated

## TAG TEAMS

- 1—**RICK & SCOTT STEINER**  
NWA World tag team champions
- 2—**ANDRE THE GIANT & HAKU**  
WWF World tag team champions
- 3—**THE ROAD WARRIORS**  
No. 3 contenders: NWA tag team title
- 4—**DEMOLITION**  
No. 1 contenders: WWF tag team title
- 5—**THE ROCK 'N' ROLL EXPRESS**  
No. 4 contenders: NWA tag team title

- 6—**MIKE ENOS & WAYNE BLOOM**  
AWA World tag team champions
- 7—**THE MIDNIGHT EXPRESS**  
No. 2 contenders: NWA tag team title
- 8—**DOOM**  
No. 1 contenders: NWA tag team title
- 9—**THE POWERS OF PAIN**  
No. 2 contenders: WWF tag team title
- 10—**THE ROCKERS**  
No. 3 contenders: WWF tag team title

- 11—**ROBERT FULLER & BRIAN LEE**  
USWA tag team champions
- 12—**THE WILD SAMOANS**  
No. 5 contenders: NWA tag team title
- 13—**PAUL DIAMOND & THE TROOPER**  
No. 1 contenders: AWA tag team title
- 14—**THE DYNAMIC DUDES**  
No. 6 contenders: NWA tag team title
- 15—**DENNIS CONDREY & DOUG GILBERT**  
ICW tag team champions

*These ratings are compiled by the editors with the assistance of promoters, wrestlers, and reporters around the country, and are based on won-lost records for the past month, quality of opposition, and the inherent skill of each wrestler . . . "Most Popular" and "Most Hated" ratings are based on nationwide surveys of wrestling fans and on mail that comes to our offices . . . Championships marked with asterisks on the "Roll Call of Champions" indicate title changes that have taken place since our previous issue . . . The information under the championship listing indicates the date that champion won the title, who the former champion was, and where the match took place .*

For period ended January 26, 1990

# ROLL CALL OF CHAMPIONS

## ALL-JAPAN ASIAN TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS:

**TOSHIKAKI KAWADA & SAMSON FUYUKI**  
(October 20, 1989; from Dan Kroffat & Doug Furnas; Nagoya, Japan)

## ALL-JAPAN INTERNATIONAL CHAMPION: JUMBO TSURUTA

(October 11, 1989; from Genichiro Tenryu; Yokohama, Japan)

## ALL-JAPAN TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: STAN HANSEN & GENICHIRO TENRYU

(December 6, 1989; tournament final over Jumbo Tsuruta & Yoshiaki Yatsu; Tokyo, Japan)

## ALL-JAPAN JR. HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMPION: MASANOBU FUCHI

(October 20, 1989; from Joe Malenko; Nagoya, Japan)

## ALL-JAPAN UNITED NATIONAL CHAMPION: JUMBO TSURUTA

(October 11, 1989; from Genichiro Tenryu; Yokohama, Japan)

## \* ALL-JAPAN WOMEN'S INTERNATIONAL CHAMPION: MITSUKO NISHIWAKI

(January 1, 1990; elimination final over Bull Nakano; Tokyo, Japan)

## ALL-JAPAN WOMEN'S CHAMPION: MINAMI TOYOTA

(November 18, 1989; tournament final over Mika Tekahashi; Tokyo, Japan)

## ALL-JAPAN WOMEN'S TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS:

**GRIZZLY IWAMOTO & AJA KONG**  
(December 9, 1989; from Yumiko Hotta & Mitsuko Nishiwaki; Tokyo, Japan)

## AWA WORLD CHAMPION: LARRY ZBYSZKO

(February 7, 1989; battle royal victory to fill vacant title; St. Paul, MN)

## AWA WORLD TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: THE DESTRUCTION CREW

(October 1, 1989; tournament final over Greg Gagne & Paul Diamond; Rochester, MN)

## AWA WORLD WOMEN'S CHAMPION: CANDI DEVINE

(December 6, 1989; tournament match over Judy Martin; Toronto, Ontario)

## BRITISH COMMONWEALTH CHAMPION (INACTIVE): BRUCE HART

(October 14, 1989; from Gama Singh; Lethbridge, Alberta)

## CWA CHAMPION: BILL DUNDEE

(November 19, 1989; from Dirty White Boy; Memphis, TN)

## CWA TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: TITLE VACANT

(most recently held by The Rock 'n' Roll Express)

## ICW CHAMPION: TONY ATLAS

(February 11, 1989; from Joe Savoldi; Presque Isle, ME)

## ICW TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: DENNIS CONDREY & DOUG GILBERT

(December 30, 1989; over Phil Apollo & Vic Steamboat; Augusta, ME)

## IWGP CHAMPION: BIG VAN VADER

(August 10, 1989; from Riki Choshu; Tokyo, Japan)

## IWGP INTERNATIONAL TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS:

**MASA SAITO & SHINYA HASHIMOTO**  
(September 20, 1989; from Riki Choshu & Takayuki Izuki; Osaka, Japan)

## IWGP JR. HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMPION: NAOKI SANO

(August 10, 1989; from Jushin Riger; Tokyo, Japan)

## \* LPWA CHAMPION: SUSAN SEXTON

(by LPWA officials' decision)

## \* NWA TV CHAMPION: ARN ANDERSON

(January 2, 1990; from The Great Muta; Gainesville, GA)

## NWA WORLD CHAMPION: RIC FLAIR

(May 7, 1989; from Rick Steamboat; Nashville, TN)

## NWA WORLD TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: RICK & SCOTT STEINER

(November 1, 1989; from Michael Hayes & Jim Garvin; Atlanta, GA)

## PACIFIC NORTHWEST CHAMPION: SCOTTY THE BODY

(October 14, 1989; from Rex King; Portland, OR)

## PACIFIC NORTHWEST TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: TITLE HELD UP

(most recently held by The Grappler & Bryan Adams)

## PACIFIC WRESTLING FEDERATION CHAMPION: JUMBO TSURUTA

(October 11, 1989; from Genichiro Tenryu; Yokohama, Japan)

## PACIFIC WRESTLING FEDERATION INT'L TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS:

**STAN HANSEN & GENICHIRO TENRYU**

(December 6, 1989; tournament final over Jumbo Tsuruta & Yoshiaki Yatsu; Tokyo, Japan)

## PWF (FLORIDA) CHAMPION: STEVE KEIRN

(July 9, 1989; from Kendall Windham; Orlando, FL)

## \* PWF (FLORIDA) TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: THE NASTY BOYS

(January 6, 1990; from Bounty Hunter I & Terminator; Nassau, Bahamas)

## STAMPEDE NORTH AMERICAN CHAMPION (INACTIVE): LARRY CAMERON

(April 28, 1989; from Davey Boy Smith; Calgary, Alberta)

## STAMPEDE INTERNATIONAL TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS (INACTIVE):

**TITLE VACANT**

(most recently held by The Blackhearts)

## U.S. CHAMPION: LEX LUGER

(May 22, 1989; from Michael Hayes; Bluefield, WV)

## \* USWA CHAMPION: JERRY LAWLER

(January 8, 1990; from King Cobra; Memphis, TN)

## USWA TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: ROBERT FULLER & BRIAN LEE

(December 1, 1989; tournament final; Dallas, TX)

## \* USWA TEXAS CHAMPION: KERRY VON ERICH

(January 5, 1990; from Jerry Lawler; Dallas, TX)

## \* WWC CARIBBEAN CHAMPION: HARLEY RACE

(January 6, 1990; from Miguel Perez Jr.; San Juan, Puerto Rico)

## WWC CARIBBEAN TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: THE MERCENARIES

(October 7, 1989; from Miguel Perez Jr. & Hurricane Castillo Jr.; Bayamon, Puerto Rico)

## WWC JR. HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMPION: SUPER MEDIC

(July 29, 1989; from Chicky Starr; Caguas, Puerto Rico)

## \* WWC PUERTO RICAN CHAMPION: MANNY FERNANDEZ

(January 13, 1990; from Invader I; Bayamon, Puerto Rico)

## WWC TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: CHRIS & MARK YOUNGBLOOD

(October 7, 1989; from Rip Rogers & Abughdadien; Bayamon, Puerto Rico)

## WWC UNIVERSAL CHAMPION: LEO BURKE

(December 17, 1989; from Carlos Colon; Mayaguez, Puerto Rico)

## WWC WOMEN'S CHAMPION: WENDI RICHTER

(July 28, 1987; from Monster Ripper; Trinidad, West Indies)

## WWF INTERCONTINENTAL CHAMPION: ULTIMATE WARRIOR

(August 28, 1989; from Rick Rude; East Rutherford, NJ)

## WWF WORLD CHAMPION: HULK HOGAN

(April 2, 1989; from Randy Savage; Atlantic City, NJ)

## WWF WORLD TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: ANDRE THE GIANT & HAKU

(December 13, 1989; from Demolition; Huntsville, AL)

## WWF WOMEN'S CHAMPION: ROCKIN' ROBIN

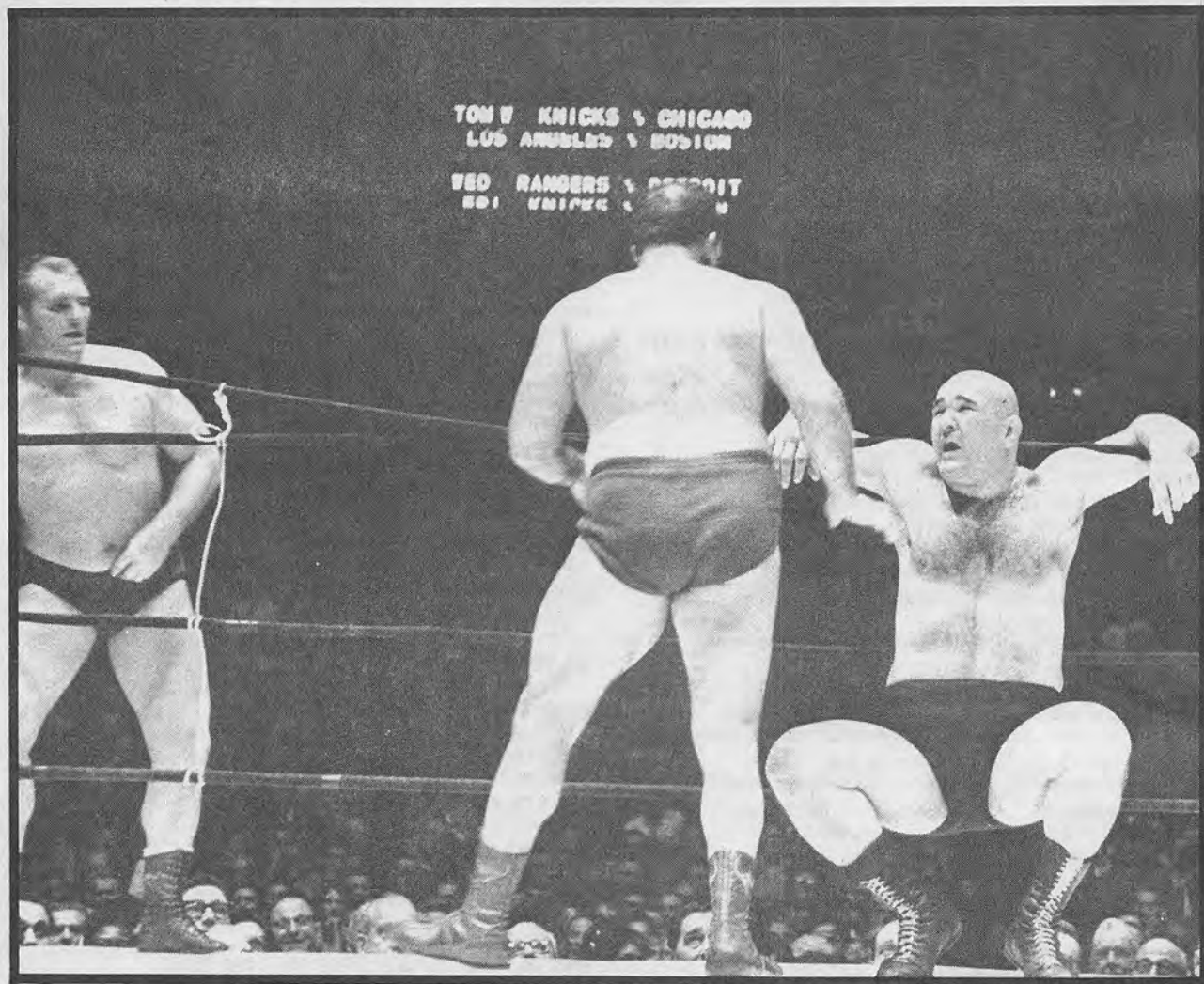
(October 7, 1988; from Sherri Martel; Paris, France)



# ***Blast From The Past***

## ***This Month In Wrestling History***

**“NOBODY CARED WHO WON”**



### **THE FABULOUS KANGAROOS vs. SKULL MURPHY & BRUTE BERNARD**

**March 1962**

In the early '60s, the two most vicious rulebreaking tag teams in the sport were The Fabulous Kangaroos—Al Costello and Roy Heffernan—and the brutal duo of Brute Bernard and Skull Murphy. When these two roughhouse teams battled each other in this special match at New York's Madison Square Garden, the fans booed *all four* as they made their way to the ring! Even when Bernard was caught between the third and fourth ropes and was beaten severely by Costello (pictured here), fans hissed in indifference. Finally, all four men began brawling outside the ring. The legendary rulebreakers were pelted with cups and debris as they fought all the way back to the dressing room, earning a double-disqualification and a spot in the rich lore of Madison Square Garden wrestling history.



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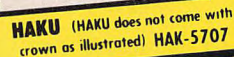
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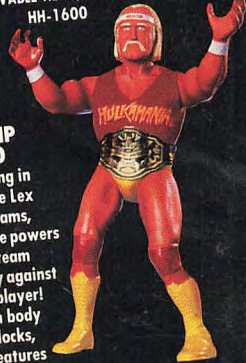


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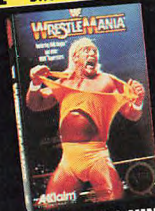
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